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Japan

Tokyo To Allow U.S. Rice Display at Food Show

OW3103045992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0434 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japan will allow the United States to show U.S.-grown rice to Japanese consumers at a food exhibition in Tokyo on April 14-16 on certain conditions, Japan's farm minister said Tuesday.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu told reporters that permission will be given in a few days for the proposed display at the Great American Food Show on condition that the display be used only to provide information to Japanese and that no U.S.-grown rice be sold at the site or anywhere else in Japan.

The U.S., which plans to display 120 kilograms of rice at the fair, applied Monday for approval of the plans under the Japanese Staple Food Control Law.

Ministry officials said permitting the rice display will not affect Japan's position of maintaining self-sufficiency in food supplies, which is at the center of a controversy at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

U.S.-grown rice was displayed at a similar American food show held last year in Chiba, east of Tokyo, and Japanese authorities ordered the removal of the samples from the exhibition under the Staple Food Control Law, which bans the import of rice.

The incident stirred a heated dispute between Japan and the U.S.

Service Firms Eligible for Trademark Registration

OW3103093392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Financial, transportation, and other service companies can apply for registration of their trademarks starting Wednesday, the patent office said Tuesday.

Japan's protection for logos and trademarks that companies use did not extend in the past to companies in the service sector.

In response to requests both at home and overseas, however, the government revised the trademark law in May last year to cover service-related trademarks as well.

The patent office said the rapid expansion of the country's service industry amid deregulation resulted in an increasing number of disputes over trademarks, which led the government to revise the law.

Also taken into account was a strong demand from the United States and other industrial nations for greater protection of service-related trademarks, and the moves in the Uruguay Round of trade talks toward giving firm legal status to those trademarks.

The office estimates the first year will see 100,000 to 120,000 applications from the service sector, against some 170,000 applications filed for goods-related trademarks annually. Some 30,000 to 50,000 annual applications are expected for the following years.

To cope with the flood of applications, the office will increase the number of its trademark examiners to 130 from the current 114 in the new fiscal year starting Wednesday.

Monitoring of Steel Exports to U.S. To Continue

OW3103142192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japan will continue to monitor steel exports to the United States after the expiration Tuesday of a voluntary restraint agreement between the two nations, government officials said.

The 1984 agreement called for Japan to limit its steel exports to the United States at slightly above 5.0 percent of the total U.S. domestic consumption.

The United States has concluded similar bilateral agreements with 16 steel-exporting nations including members of the European Community.

The officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said no specific ceiling will be set for Japanese steel exports in the new fiscal year, which begins Wednesday, because there is little possibility of a steep rise in Japanese shipments.

Last year, Japan's steel exports to the United States accounted for about 3.0 percent of the U.S. consumption.

The provisional measures are needed because negotiations for a multilateral steel-trade agreement to replace the current bilateral agreements will take about one year to conclude, the officials said.

Talks on the multilateral agreement started Tuesday in Geneva, and involve representatives from 23 countries, they said.

Okinawa Assembly Adopts Military Base Statement

OW3103131692 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 30 Mar 92 Evening Edition p 1

[Excerpts] The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, now in the February ordinary session, opened a final plenary meeting at 1000 on the morning of 30 March. At the final plenary meeting, assembly members from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party and the New Political Club adopted an amendment bill to the draft general account budget for the prefectural government during fiscal year 1992. Sixty-six bills introduced by the prefectural government were also adopted unanimously at the final plenary meeting. The amendment included 356 million yen (the 1991 basis) in rent accrued from the use of the prefectural government-owned land by military bases, but cut the same amount in the draft budget to be transferred from the fiscal adjustment fund. As a result, there was no change in the total amount of the draft budget. At the plenary meeting, the prefectural assembly also unanimously adopted a statement calling on the central government to take steps to hasten the return of military base land and help landlords effectively use the returned land. [passage omitted]

At the plenary meeting, Shigemasa Kaneshiro, chairman of the General Affairs and Planning Committee, explained why he introduced the statement to the prefectural assembly. In his explanations, he pointed out that the "return of land presently used by military bases, the compensation for landlords following the return of land, and the effective utilization of returned land are not progressing smoothly as planned' and then indicated the need for the central government to take steps to make quick and planned use of returned land."

The prefectural assembly plans to send an assembly delegation in late April to Tokyo.

Cambodian Meeting Agrees on Conference Dates

OW3103075392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Participants at an international meeting here on reconstruction aid for Cambodia agreed Tuesday to hold a ministerial-level conference on the subject in Tokyo on June 22-23, according to a press release.

The release said the participants agreed that holding the conference in late June would be timely in view of the scheduled full deployment by then of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The two-day meeting, which ended Tuesday, included working-level representatives of 31 countries, the European Community, and eight international organizations,

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said commitments of concrete financial and moral support expected at the June conference would help UNTAC effectively and smoothly fulfill its broad mandate in Cambodia.

The press release said the conference will be cochaired by Japan and the U.N. Development Program.

It said the participants also agreed to set up a mechanism for coordination of international assistance to Cambodia, to be known as the International Committee on Reconstruction of Cambodia.

They pledged to assist Cambodia in its national-building efforts "so long as...all the Cambodian parties permit UNTAC operations to be effectively implemented," the release said.

UNTAC is partly entrusted with the tasks of repatriating refugees, disarming and demobilizing the warring Cambodian factions, and preparing for the holding of free elections.

The release said international assistance to Cambodia would continue after the elections "so long as a new, freely elected government takes office and peace is sustained."

It said there was agreement at the meeting to explore ways of assisting the country adopt "sound socioeconomic policies that will lead to building a foundation for the future stability and prosperity of Cambodia."

The release noted remarks by UNTAC representatives at the meeting that U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali would appeal in mid-April to the international community for hundreds of millions of dollars in Cambodian "rehabilitation" aid.

The U.N. has so far unofficially estimated Cambodia's needs at some 800 million dollars during the rehabilitation period preceding the elections.

Cambodia's needs during the "reconstruction" period after the elections are expected to be substantially higher.

The participants shared concern over continuing violations of the ceasefire and called on all factions to cooperate fully with UNTAC in implementing the terms of the Paris peace agreement of October 1991.

On Monday, Cambodian Supreme National Council representative Keo Puth Reasmey outlined priorities for assistance in rural development, infrastructure, afforestation and protection of the environment, and utilization of demobilized forces.

Cambodian Fighting Could 'Endanger' Assistance

OW3103141392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Representatives from 40 countries and groups ended a meeting Tuesday on rebuilding Cambodia with a warning that ceasefire violations could endanger international aid.

But despite the concern, the participants at the working-level meeting agreed to hold a June 22-23 ministerial-level conference in Tokyo at which rehabilitation and reconstruction aid would be committed for the war-torn country, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Japan welcomes the two-day meeting's strong endorsement of (?its) goal that the June conference address not only economic needs but also give a strong political impetus to efforts for a lasting peace.

The participants from 31 countries, the European Community, and eight international organizations said in a statement that their commitment to helping Cambodia "would depend on ... compliance and cooperation" with implementing the peace pact designed to end 13 years of war.

International aid to Cambodia would continue beyond general elections slated for the spring of next year only "so long as a new freely elected government takes office and peace is sustained," according to the statement issued at the end of the meeting.

Economic problems were also addressed at the meeting, with a World Bank representative warning of hyperinflation and a budget deficit that could cripple the government's administration abilities, the Japanese officials said.

The participants said holding the ministerial conference in late June would be politically timely, as the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is to be fully employed by then to help repatriate refugees, disarm and demobilize the four warring Cambodian parties, and preparing for the holding of free elections next year.

In what Japan welcomed as of great "political" significance, participants pledged to conditionally assist Cambodia's national-building efforts only "so long as the cooperation of the SNC (Supreme National Council interim governing body) and all the Cambodian parties permit UNTAC operations to be effectively implemented."

The Japanese officials said the commitment of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance at the conference by donor countries and international organizations should help UNTAC effectively and smoothly fulfill its broad mandate.

The participants agreed that the conference, originally proposed by Japan last May, be cochaired by Japan and the U.N. Development Program, which will be the implementing agency in Cambodia.

Among those expected to attend the June conference will be Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and UNTAC's top coordinator, Yasushi Akashi, officials said.

The meeting's participants also agreed to set up a consultative forum to coordinate aid to Cambodia after the elections, the statement said.

The forum, to be known as the International Committee on Reconstruction of Cambodia, was proposed by Japan in July 1989 and endorsed in principle at the first international conference on Cambodia in Paris that September.

Officials confirmed that France asked that the aid-forum meetings, the first of which is likely to be held at the ministerial level, be alternately held in Paris and Tokyo, though no decision was reached on the matter.

The World Bank representative told the meeting hyperinflation is bound to result from the Cambodian Government's printing of money to make up for shortages of essential funds, the officials said.

Prompted by that warning, they said, the participants called in the statement for exploring ways to help Cambodia adopt "sound socioeconomic policies that will lead to building a foundation for the future stability and prosperity of Cambodia."

UNTAC officials told the meeting that U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali would in mid-April appeal to the international community for hundreds of millions of dollars in Cambodian "rehabilitation" aid, the statement said.

The U.N. has so far unofficially estimated Cambodia's needs at some 800 million dollars during "rehabilitation," which in the language of the Cambodia peace process is the period preceding the elections.

Cambodia's needs during the "reconstruction" period after the elections are expected to be substantially higher.

During the first day of the meeting Monday, SNC representative Keo Puth Reasmey outlined the council's priorities for assistance in rural development, infrastructure, forestation and protection of the environment, and use of demobilized forces.

Kakizawa Urges Sending of SDF to Cambodia

OW3103141592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said Tuesday that Japanese contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia would be "useless" without Self-Defense Forces [SDF] personnel.

Kakizawa told reporters there are high expectations for Japan to contribute to the war-torn country in mine disposal, medical care, transportation, and communications.

He said even if the SDF does not participate in the U.N. peacekeeping forces, it still can contribute in such areas.

He called for the bill to send SDF personnel overseas to be passed in the current Diet session so that they can join in when the U.N. deploys a second unit to Cambodia in September.

Kakizawa visited Cambodia from March 19 to 21 to inspect activities of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which kicked off its 18-month operation March 15.

Smaller Companies Asked To Invest in Britain

OW3103131892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—A senior British diplomat Tuesday called for smaller Japanese companies to choose Britain as the location for their business footholds in Europe.

"In the past four years, about 100 Japanese firms started direct investments in Britain. But most of the firms are major and large-scale companies," said Charles Humfrey, counselor at the British Embassy in Tokyo.

"I expect medium-sized and smaller Japanese businesses, particularly high-tech firms, to come to the British market in the late 1990s," Humfrey said while speaking at a forum.

"When those companies seek business footholds in Europe, I hope they will opt for Britain as the best choice," he said.

Humfrey, who is the diplomat in charge of economic affairs, said a sound economy as well as the practice of treating domestic and foreign businesses equally makes Britain a good site for Japanese investments.

He also said that relations between labor and management in Britain have entered a new phase, with the ratio of British labor unions going on strike reaching an all-time low in the 20th century.

Noting that general labor costs in Britain are two-thirds as low as those in Germany," Humfrey said Britain remains the transportation center in Europe thanks to well-furnished infrastructures.

"It would be more convenient after the tunnel between the English Channel is completed in 1993," he said.

Foreign Share of Computer Chip Sales Reported

OW3003111692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The cooling domestic economy helped keep the foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market nearly flat in the final quarter of last year, according to figures released Monday by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Foreign chips accounted for a 16.1 percent share of the market in the October-December period, down from 16.2 percent reported in the previous quarter, including imports and products made by U.S. companies in Japan for their own use.

Excluding such products, the foreign share expanded slightly to 14.4 percent from 14.3 percent registered in the July-September quarter, MITI said.

The official figures are the second set to be calculated by Japanese and U.S. experts under a new five-year bilateral chip trade accord that came into effect last August 1.

Both numbers, however, are far short of U.S. industry expectations of 20 percent foreign penetration in Japan's chip market by the end of 1992.

But a ministry official said the 20-percent goal specified in the chip pact is still within practical reach.

The official blamed the economic slump for the poor results, saying it made foreign distributors slash inventories rather than buy more from foreign makers.

Since the figures are based on shipments, Japanese users' effort to purchase foreign-made chips is hardly mirrored in them, he said.

A recent MITI survey on Japan's 226 foreign chip users showed that few of them reduced purchases of foreign chips despite the economic slowdown, indicating the share would be much higher if the figures were purchase-based, the official said.

The official also said MITI and the industry will continue to make every possible opportunity" to improve foreign access to the Japanese market, including an upcoming MITI-sponsored gathering of 226 Japanese chip users.

Merger, Acquisition Investment Overseas Rises

OW3103131592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japanese investment in mergers and acquisitions overseas in the January-March period surged 9.5 percent over the same period last year to 69 cases, Daiwa Securities Co. said Tuesday.

The brokerage house said the investment was valued at 175.9 billion yen, up a hefty 82.6 percent over a year earlier.

Conspicuous was real estate-related investment, which totaled nine cases, followed by seven cases for the acquisition of mining concessions.

In Japan, there were 73 mergers between corporations, worth a total of 70.5 billion yen, up 2.8 percent in number but down 62.0 percent in value, Daiwa said.

The company said 13 domestic mergers involved takeovers of distribution-related companies, indicating reorganization of that industry is progressing in Japan.

Prices Discounted Before Import Liberalization

OW3003154092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Supermarket chain stores are selling orange juice at discounted prices ahead of the government's import liberalization of the farm produce, effective Wednesday.

Tariffs on juice imports will remain in effect, but the ceiling on annual imports up to 200,000 tons in terms of 100 percent juice will be lifted.

Major producing countries like Brazil are likely to make a bargaining offensive to promote consumption in Japan, with a possibility of leading to lower prices and benefiting consumers, industry sources said.

Daiei Inc., Japan's largest nationwide supermarket chain operator, took the lead March 19 when it began marketing its "Saving Valencia Orange Juice 100" at 198 yen per liter, 30 to 40 percent less than its conventional merchandise.

Company officials said the reason for the cut was lower cost due to direct import from Brazil, but the sources suggested that the producers made a substantial price reduction.

For fruit juice producers, the Far East Asian countries such as Japan are the last markets which can be expanded during the rest of this century, they said.

There is a Brazilian juice maker who is now constructing large storage facilities in central Japan, they said.

Seiyu Ltd. said it is offering a 10-30 percent discount on its six types of juice in a memorial sale period which started last Friday and runs through Wednesday, they said.

One example is Seiyu's "Florida Valencia orange" which is now priced at 218 yen per liter rather than its usual sale price of 308 yen.

Meanwhile, beer brewers that also produce soft drinks are trying to develop a new market for straight juice transported from production centers in cold storage, the sources said.

Subsidiaries of Kirin Brewery Co., Asahi Breweries Ltd., and Suntory Ltd. will put new merchandise on the market by May, they said.

Straight juice, which the sources said is considered tasting better than traditional one which is sterilized by heating to high temperatures, will be priced relatively higher at about 400 yen per liter, they said.

House of Councillors Passes Provisional Budget

OW3103110692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The House of Councillors passed a 524.4 billion yen provisional budget by a majority vote Tuesday, completing parliamentary action on the legislation.

The budget covering the first 11 days of government finances became necessary due to a delay in the passage of the main budget for fiscal 1992 through the opposition-controlled upper house.

All opposition parties, except the Japanese Communist Party, joined the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in voting for the provisional budget.

The government has been forced to compile a provisional budget every year since fiscal 1987.

Mieno Says Economy Entering 'Difficult Period'

OW3103100692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told the Diet Tuesday the central bank is undecided whether to cut the official discount rate.

Testifying at a House of Councillors Budget Committee session, Mieno said the Japanese economy is entering a difficult period involving a transition to sustainable growth without inflation.

He lauded the set of pump-priming measures adopted by the government Tuesday and said that a delayed cut in the discount rate would not damage the domestic economy on the whole.

The central bank is expected to announce a 0.75 percentage point cut on Wednesday to bring the key rate to an annual 3.75 percent, informed sources said.

Mieno said, however, that money market interest rates have already fallen to a low level and that vigilance is required to prevent the so-called "bubble economy" from reappearing.

Responding to concern over the impact another discount rate cut might have on those who depend on pensions and returns from deposits, Mieno said such individuals would benefit from economic stability in the long run.

He said the government's economic package, coupled with three discount rate cuts by the central bank since last July, completed the necessary steps to shore up the sagging economy.

Mieno ruled out the possibility of the domestic economy stalling, saying the economic package and the discount rate cuts so far should spur business activity.

Economic Indicators Show 'Further Deceleration'

OW3103061192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Economic indicators showed a further deceleration of Japan's economy in January, the Economic Planning Agency said in a preliminary report Tuesday.

The agency said the leading index stood at 18.2 percent, down from revised 23.1 percent in December, staying below the boom-or-bust threshhold of 50 percent for the 17th consecutive month.

The coincident index, which shows current economic conditions, stood at 0.0 [as received] percent, down from revised 10.0 percent in December, remaining well under the critical 50 percent line for the sixth straight month, the agency said.

The lagging index, which shows economic conditions in the past several months, declined to 42.9 percent from revised 56.3 percent in December, due largely to sluggish household consumption, the agency said.

Tokyo Drafts Package To Boost 'Wobbly' Economy

OW3003134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, 30 March 30 KYODO—The government has drafted a package of measures to provide a thrust to the wobbly economy amid growing concerns that the current slowdown could degenerate into an all-out recession.

The seven-point package includes a front-loading of public works projects for fiscal 1992, the easing of stock investment restrictions, and financial incentives to boost housing and corporate investments, government sources said Monday.

It is the first time the government has worked out such sweeping economic measures since May 1987, when it fashioned a 6 trillion yen package including a 1 trillion yen tax reduction to help the economy recover from recession caused by the sharp upswing of the yen.

The latest economic booster also mentions an "appropriate and flexible management of monetary policy," an apparent call on the Bank of Japan to cut the official discount rate, according to the sources.

Speculation has emerged that the central bank would make a cut in the benchmark lending rate Tuesday, coinciding with the announcement of the package and adding luster to it.

The bulk of the impact of the package should come from the fiscal stimulant through a 75-percent front-loading of public works projects for fiscal 1992.

That means the government will inject more than 11.2 trillion yen into public works in the first six months of fiscal 1992, up 1.6 trillion yen or 16 percent from the same period the previous year.

Combined with similar earlier implementations of public works by local governments, public works spending in the first half of fiscal 1992 will increase by 2 trillion yen, they said.

The package also includes increases and early mobilization of capital spending by electric power companies and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and measures to facilitate fund raising by small companies, as well as an easing of restrictions on the capital markets to prop up sagging stocks.

The government hopes the package, along with the expected monetary easing, will provide a sizable kick to the economy, whose vital signs are deteriorating.

Recent economic indicators show business confidence at its lowest ebb in more than four years, industrial output sputtering, and money supply growth at a virtual standstill. The nation's gross national product (GNP) also shrank in the October-December quarter for the first time since the April-June of 1989.

Some economists claim the current slowdown will turn out to be one of the major recessions in the postwar period.

"We are going through a downturn that is as deep as the recession following the first oil crisis in 1974 or the one in 1965," said Nobuyuki Saji, senior economist at Nikko Research Center.

The economists agreed that the package will have little effect unless it is supplemented by additional fiscal spending.

The package will not engender any significant momentum unless the government follows through with supplementary spending of at least 3 trillion yen, said Masaru Takagi, chief economist with Fuji Research Institute.

Takashi Kiuchi, chief economist with the long-term credit Bank of Japan, agreed, arguing that mere front-loading is unlikely to inspire companies to increase their capital investments.

But Kiuchi added, "the package is important in preventing economic policy from becoming too dependent on monetary policy and in countering the perception that the Miyazawa cabinet can do nothing to rescue the economy."

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has already suggested that the government will start drafting a supplementary budget for the second half of the fiscal year.

But economists are generally skeptical that the economy will take a major upturn any time soon even with such a fiscal stimulus.

Fuji Research's Takagi says the economy will grow by only 2.8 percent in real terms in fiscal 1992 even with a 3 trillion yen supplementary budget, adding that growth will be less than 2 percent without the fiscal prop.

The government's target of an inflation-adjusted 3.5 percent growth is now out of reach, Takagi said.

Growth Target 'Within Reach'

OW3103010792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The government Tuesday announced a package of measures aimed at generating a fiscal stimulus to put the faltering economy back on an expansionary course.

The package includes front-loading of over 75 percent of the public works projects for fiscal 1992 and financial incentives for corporate investments that will contribute to shortening working hours.

The 75 percent front-loading translates into a 1.5 trillion yen, or 15.7 percent, increase in the government's public works spending in the first half of fiscal 1992 over the same period the previous year, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said.

It also calls on the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to "adopt an appropriate and flexible monetary policy, while closely monitoring economic conditions both at home and abroad as well as international currency situations."

The carefully worded reference to monetary policy is a thinly veiled call for an easing of monetary policy to supplement the government's package.

Masaru Yoshitomi, director general of the EPA's Coordination Bureau, said that since the package will take some weight off the monetary front in supporting the economy, the BOJ will find it easier to make policy decisions.

"The government's economic policy, which had been biased toward monetary measures, has regained a balance between fiscal and monetary policies thanks to the package," he said.

Yoshitomi said the new measures, which he said would create at least 4 trillion yen in domestic demand, will help put the economy back on the path of healthy growth, making the government's target of a 3.5 percent real growth target for fiscal 1992 within reach.

But he added it is too early to say whether the government will have to compile a supplementary budget for the second half, saying the decision will be made after carefully studying the actual effects of the package.

The seven-point package represents the first such sweeping economy-boosting measures since May 1987, when the government announced a 6 trillion yen package, including 1 trillion yen in tax cuts, to help the economy recover from the aftereffects of the strong-yen recession.

The latest measures also include increases in, and earlier implementation of, capital investments by electric and gas utilities as well as by the two telephone concerns—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. and KDD [Kokusai Denshin Denwa, the international operator].

Also promised is the establishment of new financing schemes in the Japan Development Bank and another government lending organization to promote corporate investments for streamlining that will contribute to shorter working hours.

Among other measures stipulated in the package are lowering telephone charges, financial incentives to boost housing investments, measures to facilitate fund-raising by small companies, and steps to loosen restrictions on capital markets.

The package said the government will call for higher dividend payments and promote stock investment funds for large investors in an effort to support the limping stock market.

The economic booster came as a flurry of economic indicators point to an economic decline both longer and deeper than expected.

Business sentiment has sagged to a four-year low, industrial production is weak amid drastic inventory adjustments, money supply growth has virtually come to a halt, and stock prices are languishing around the 20,000 yen line, almost 50 percent down from their peak.

The EPA's Yoshitomi, however, stressed the latest package is intended more as a preventive measure rather than a tonic to revive the weak economy.

The economy is in much better shape than at any time in the past 10 years when the government took similar steps, he said.

The government has drawn up emergency spending programs five times in the past 10 years, with the total net expenditure increase ranging from 2 trillion yen in October 1982 to 6 trillion yen in May 1987.

"This is really a preemptive step to prevent the economy from plunging into a deep trough rather than a rescue mission," he said.

Economists in the private sector, however, view the package as nothing more than a prelude to the real injection of new money.

"If it's only front-loading, then it's only window dressing, and it will do nothing to change corporate sentiment or sentiment in the financial market," said Jesper Koll, senior economist with S.G. Warburg Securities.

"The measures will amount to little unless the government compiles a supplementary budget of at least 3 trillion yen," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist with Fuji Research Institute.

Russell Jones, senior economist with UBS Phillips and Drew International, said the economy needs a lowering of the official discount rate to 3.5 percent and a 5 trillion yen fiscal stimulus to return to a robust upward path.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has already hinted at an early drafting of a supplementary budget.

Economists expect discussion within the government about a supplementary fiscal package to start soon, certainly before the July election of the House of Councillors.

EPA Announces Emergency Measures

OW3103002892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0012 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The following are the main points of a package of emergency economic measures announced Tuesday by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA).

—Front-loading 75 percent of public works projects for fiscal 1992. The similar measure will be applied for projects solely conducted by local governments.

—Increasing, as well as front-loading, plant and equipment investment by public utilities such as electric power plants and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

--Promotion of fewer working hours and enhancement of extension of loans to back labor-saving investments aimed at rationalization.

—Promotion of housing investments.

—Supporting small and medium-sized companies by such measures as smoothing their financing from government-run and other financial institutions.

—Creating a fund-raising environment.

—Flexible and swift implementation of financial policy.

Miyazawa Confident About Package

OW3103033292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed confidence Tuesday that the government's package of economic pump-priming measures will help put Japan's economy back on an expansionary course.

Miyazawa also said in an interview in the Diet building that through the package, public and private investments in the first half of fiscal 1992, which starts on Wednesday, will increase 5 trillion yen from a year earlier.

The package, including the front-loading of over 75 percent of the public works projects for fiscal 1992 and financial incentives for corporate investments that contribute to shortening working hours, was announced by the government earlier Tuesday.

Miyazawa also said he trusts the judgment of Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno in regard to Japan's monetary policy.

The package urged the central bank to adopt a "flexible monetary policy" in a thinly veiled call for a cut in the official discount rate to supplement the government incentives.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata told reporters that he believes that with the package, Japan will be able to achieve a government-estimated economic growth rate of 3.5 percent in fiscal 1992.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe expressed hope that the economic package will help boost capital investment and consumer spending.

Business Welcomes Package

OW3103110492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japan's business community generally welcomed a package of pump-priming measures adopted by the government Tuesday but urged a further cut in the official discount rate.

Yutaka Kume, president of major automaker Nissan Motor Co., described the stimulus package as "the best step which can be taken at the present stage."

Teruzo Yoshino, chairman of the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors, expressed his hope that the government will adopt timely and flexible fiscal measures, including the compilation of a supplementary budget.

Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, appealed to the Bank of Japan to implement a substantial cut in the benchmark lending rate.

The steel industry has been forced to step up production adjustments because of the economic slowdown since last fall. Japan's crude steel production is forecast to fall below 100 million tons this year.

Hideo Mori, president of Sumitomo Chemical Co., said he hopes the government's economic package will allow a steady recovery of the Japanese economy.

Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of NEC Corp., said the government's package did not incorporate concrete steps and that further measures are needed to reactivate the economy.

Electric Power Companies To Boost Investment

OW3103051292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japan's 10 regional electric power companies reacted quickly to a government call for more capital spending by announcing Tuesday plans to boost investment in plant and equipment for fiscal 1992 starting April 1.

The decision came hours after the government announced a package of emergency measures aimed at invigorating the economy, including a call on utilities firms to spend more money on capital investment.

Under the plan, the electric power companies plan to spend an additional 296.7 billion yen to bring their total outlays in the coming fiscal year to a record 4,589.6 billion yen.

Also, they will front-load 70 percent of such spending in the first half of the next fiscal year.

In announcing the decision, Sho Nasu, chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies, said that he expects the additional investment, coupled with the government pump-priming package, to contribute to helping the economy pull out of its current slowdown at an early date.

NTT To Increase Capital Spending

OW3103143292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. [NTT] plans to front-load its plant and equipment spending for fiscal 1992 in the first half by 60 billion yen to 1.02 trillion yen, officials said Tuesday.

The total planned spending of 1.96 trillion yen throughout the year will be unchanged, they said.

The move is in response to the government's emergency economic package announced the same day.

Orders for capital spending in the first six months will account for 52.0 percent of the total, up 30 billion yen in terms of value over the same period last year, the officials said.

Meanwhile, KDD, the nations's telecommunications giant, will also maintain its planned annual spending target of 74.4 billion yen, but will front-load 7 billion yen worth in the first six months.

Japanese Railways Labor Unions Stage Strikes

OW3003052092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30—Japanese Railways (JR) labor unions staged limited strikes Monday and threatened to paralyze part of the "Shinkansen" bullet train service Tuesday and Wednesday unless their demands for wage hikes are met.

Some 120 designated workers walked out for 12 hours from noon on the Tokaido Shinkansen and other JR Tokai lines.

Union leaders of JR Western Japan, JR Tokai, and JR Kyushu said union members would refuse to operate bullet trains from midnight Monday. The JR Tokai Union is demanding wage increases averaging 8.5 percent.

The strike could disrupt Shinkansen services from Tokyo to Shin-Osaka and from Shin-Osaka to Hakata in Fukuoka.

The last time the Shinkansen trains were halted by a strike was in 1979, when 155 bullet trains of the then state-owned Japanese National Railways (JNR) were forced to a halt. The JNR was privatized and split up in 1987.

The management of the companies said management personnel would operate the bullet trains if the unions should go on strike.

The planned strikes would mostly affect bullet trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen line between Shin-Osaka and Hakata, where union members account for some 75 percent of JR Western Japan's Shinkansen operators, the company said.

Bullet Trains, 45 Lines Affected

OW3003180692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1534 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Osaka, March 31 KYODO—Three Japan Railways (JR) company labor unions entered a 48-hour strike at Monday midnight to press wage hikes and other demands, union officials said early Tuesday. The planned strike will affect 45 lines, including bullet trains on the Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen lines linking Tokyo, Osaka to Hakata in Fukuoka Prefecture, the officials said.

It is the first strike staged by JR companies' unions since the firms' establishment in 1987. It is also the first break in Shinkansen service since 1979. The strike, which is expected to inconvenience some 2.5 million commuters, followed the work stoppage last Friday by Japan's nine major private railway companies.

Some 2,500 members of the west Japan union, 2,000 from central Japan and 1,300 from Kyushu Japan are expected to walk off the job, the officials said.

On Monday, West Japan Railway Co. offered average monthly wage hikes of 16,574 yen, up 5.57 percent from a year earlier. Kyushu Japan Railway Co. offered 14,538 yen, up 5.00 percent. Central Japan Railway Co., however, has yet to make a wage hike offer to its union as of early Tuesday.

The Unions of west Japan and Kyushu Japan voiced dissatisfaction with the wage hike proposals, as well as company positions on security and unfair labor practices, union officials said.

Public Servants' 5-Day Workweek Starts 2 May

OW3003135992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday called for advancing the implementation of a five-day workweek for public servants by one month, to start from May 2, government officials said.

Miyazawa gave the instructions to Junzo Iwasaki, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, the officials said.

Iwasaki told Miyazawa that two months would be necessary to prepare and make the new system known to the public and that he wants to make arrangements to implement it in June, as was originally scheduled, they said.

But Miyazawa pointed out that a five-day workweek would contribute to making Japanese society more harmonious internationally, and to creating a more comfortable country to live in, they said.

Miyazawa urged Iwasaki to reconsider implementing the system a month earlier and Iwasaki agreed. The agency began preparing for the introduction of the system for government employees, including those who work for courts and the Diet, they said.

A Cabinet meeting on Friday will formally decide the date of implementation, the officials said.

Last Friday, the Diet passed four bills guaranteeing public servants a five-day workweek.

The prime minister judged that early implementation of the five-day workweek will shorten work hours among Japanese workers and expand sluggish consumption, goverment sources said.

Miyazawa may also have made the decision with the aim of gaining public support in the upcoming House of Councillors election in July, the sources said.

Hitachi To Delay Pay Hikes for Administrators

OW3103051392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. said Tuesday it will postpone pay raises of about 9,000 management-level employees by six months and prune executive salaries by 10 to 15 percent.

The moves were prompted by the firm's weakened business performance from the drop in semiconductor and audiovisual equipment sales, company officials said.

Hitachi is Japan's largest comprehensive electric machinery manufacturer.

The wage increases, which normally would go into effect in April, will not be paid to management-level employees until September.

Salaries for the firm's chairman, president, and vice presidents will be trimmed by 15 percent and those for executives below the senior managing director level will drop 10 percent, the officials said.

Hitachi cut the salaries of administrators above the level of section chief for six to nine months in 1975 during the first oil crisis and in 1986 during the recession brought on by the sharp appreciation of the yen, they said.

The company hopes to get the same type of bottom-line results by postponing pay increases, in essence a pay cut, they said.

Hitachi's unconsolidated pretax profit is expected to plunge 42 percent to 120 billion yen for fiscal 1991 which ends Tuesday, they said.

There is a possibility that the firm's fiscal 1992 consolidated profit also will slide, they said.

North Korea

Kim Yong-sam Candidacy in South Criticized

SK3103052492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Vain Gibberish for Unity"]

[Text] The incumbent South Korean ruler, who is also president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], received a report from Kim Yong-sam on the outcome of the general elections and discussed measures for settling the aftermath of the current general election defeat as well as party operations.

In this meeting, the ruler reproached the discord among party factions which erupted soon after the elections and warned that he will not tolerate any scandalous event following the elections.

In the meeting with Kim Yong-sam and Pak Tae-chun at Chongwadae on the next day, he babbled that the party should be properly operated with the executive chairman as its head. He said acts that alienated the party and slandered others should not take place. He then stressed that the competition for a presidential candidate should be an occasion for showing party unity.

The highest person in authority in South Korea, personally appearing at the front, is attempting to settle the DLP internal dispute with lofty words. This means that the DLP situation is a mess.

After the parliamentary elections in which the DLP suffered a humiliating defeat, a secret feud was kicked off among factions within the DLP over who was responsible for the election defeat.

Various factions, which are opposed to nominating Kim Yong-sam as a presidential candidate, are attempting to expel Kim Yong-sam, claiming that he should be held responsible for the defeat since he supervised overall elections. On the other hand, Kim Yong-sam stated that he was merely the nominal party center and failure to attain unity with Kim Yong-sam as the center was the major cause for defeat. Thus, he insisted that other co-chairmen of the party, excluding himself, and the administration should be held responsible for the defeat.

The internal discord, kicked off as result of the elections, has driven the DLP into more serious confusion, and evoked derision and disdain among the public at home and abroad. As a result, the highest person in authority has launched a campaign to settle the problem.

However, the people doubt that his gibberish on unity, presented while at the same time threatening and appeasing, would be effective. No one believes that he can suppress the factional dispute because each faction seeks the presidency and such disputes will be aggravated in the wake of the national convention slated for May when the presidential candidate will be elected.

In meeting with Kim Yong-sam, the person in authority in South Korea told him to positively implement the party agenda by assuming full responsibility, thus giving the appearance that he trusts Kim Yong-sam. However, he stressed that the next presidential candidate will be conducted based on free competition and that anyone may compete as a presidential candidate. Thus, he withheld showing support for Kim Yong-sam.

He has inner thoughts to encourage the candidate of the Democratic-Justice faction to run in the election. Thus, he would never give his word that he will support Kim Yong-sam. This is more true now after the elections.

As everyone knows, the one who suffered the greatest direct damage by the DLP's miserable defeat in the elections is Kim Yong-sam, who boasted that he was practically nominated as the presidential candidate. Kim Yong-sam is now subject to criticism within the DLP and the Democratic faction—his political foundation—has been reduced by the election outcome.

Concerning this situation, foreign media commented that Kim Yong-sam, who appeared to be the most powerful candidate from the ruling party, has retreated, and as a result, the presidential candidate issue must begin again. However, it is clear that Kim Yong-sam, being engrossed with a dream of becoming the president, will not easily retreat in a true sense. After meeting with the South Korean ruler, he officially declared that he will run for the presidential candidacy during the upcoming national convention. He also raved that after the general elections, factions called the DJ [Democratic Justice] faction, Democratic faction and Republican faction, no longer exist, and he emphasized that the forces supporting him encompassed more than an absolute majority.

However, such remarks were made merely on the basis of his own subjective judgement. Foreign reports say that the DJ faction comprises the majority within the DLP and therefore, they have strenghthened their right to voice their main faction's opinion concerning a candidate.

Those who are gaining support from the DJ faction are Yi Chong-chan, Kim Pok-tong, Pak Chol-on, No Chae-pong and Pak Tae-chun. It is clear that they will oppose a transition of power to Kim Yong- sam, who is a political prostitute.

On the other hand, Kim Chong-pil from the Republican faction, whose power was further reduced by the election outcome turned in his resignation. He was displeased with developments and did not attend a luncheon at Chongwadae under the pretext of illness.

The DLP is a group who is engrossed with the ambition for power and therefore, the struggle for power within itself is inevitable and its unity is merely in vain. As the presidential candidate election date draws nearer, will the fiercer struggle among those seeking power explode? Also will such a struggle lead to the DLP's downfall?

No Tae-u Plan for 'Election Offenders' Berated

SK3103054392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 31 Mar 92

["The Loser Draws Sword"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The chief executive of South Korea at a recent "extraordinary cabinet meeting" cried that the "election offenders" should be chased to the last and punished by "law" and that "government" power should be exercised more strictly against "violence" and mass protests.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a new repressive order to suppress the people under the pretext of rounding up the "election offenders" and a reckless declaration of war to put down at the point of the bayonet the action against the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) getting stronger after the "elections" and to save its unstable position in utter isolation.

The news analyst says:

The election offenders and racketeers in South Korea are, in fact, the "DLP" and the "government of the Sixth Republic" which reduced the "general elections" to fraudulent and corrupt "elections" previously unknown by resorting to violence, "government" power and money, including the "security planning board" and the "secret affairs command." The opposition parties and the dissident forces have formed a fact-finding group on the voting of absentees in the army in order to bring to light the "election" rigging of the "DLP."

It is outrageous of the South Korean chief executive to growl with his sword unsheathed to pave the way for the extension of power, ignoring this stark reality of South Korea. This is as good as prescribing a plaster as a cure for an internal disease.

The harsher the repression by the "DLP" and the ruling forces, the stronger the resistance of the people. The "DLP" clan had better give up power of their own accord, clearly understanding the popular sentiments in South Korea.

Irrigation Works Increasing Agriculture Production

SK3103104492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The Amnok River irrigation works, a leading one in Korea, is paying off profusely.

The irrigation system which was built in the early 70s with Lake Manpung as its source leads life-giving water to paddy and non-paddy fields of eight counties including Yongchon, Yomju and Chongju of North Pyongan Province through waterways extending 800 kilometres. It has brought a significant turn in the development of the rural economy and improvement of the people's living standards.

In the early 80s, a project for supplying additional water to the irrigation works and expansion of irrigation channels were completed in a short time to send water to Cholsan and Unjon Counties and newly reclaimed Taegyedo tideland-turned fields.

With the successful construction of the waterway stretching from the Taechon power station No. 5 to Unjon, Chongju and Kwaksan, a grand nature-remaking project involving the excavation of 60 kilometres of waterways and building of more than 240 structures including water tunnels and underground ducts, a ring-shape irrigation system of the Amnok River took shape in the early 90s.

Thus, grain production in this region jumped 80 percent. Farming including fruit and vegetable growing has been diversified to increase agricultural production.

More than thirty reservoirs have come into being in this area bringing changes to the living conditions of the rural population and minor power stations have been built to send much electricity to national economic domains and to the people's houses.

South Korea

DPRK Official Interviewed on Nuclear Accord

SK3103101992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 31 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Han Si-hae, vice chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, said that North Korea will ratify the nuclear safeguards agreement, which it signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], at the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly to be held on 8 April. He said that North Korea will immediately inform the IAEA of the ratification and receive nuclear inspection following working-level discussions.

Vice Chairman Han said this in an exclusive interview with CHUNGANG ILBO on 30 March. He is in Tokyo to participate in the meeting of the co-chairmen of the overseas headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for National Reunification [Pomminnyon] to be held in Japan beginning 1 April. He stated that in order to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, the North and the South should conduct inspections of each other's nuclear facilities which the two sides think suspicious and prove that there are no nuclear weapons.

As for holding North-South summit talks, Vice Chairman Han said: "Summit talks can hardly be held unless a specific reunification formula is put forward." He added that the North is opposed to summit talks in which the two sides meet and leave, just taking a cup of tea, without any fruitful results.

Vice Chairman Han said that the results of the 24 March general elections will not affect the North-South dialogue and that the important thing is what kind of serious attitude the two sides take in a dialogue. He also said that the progress of dialogue will depend on the implementation of the North-South agreement and on how soon the supplementary documents will be made.

Touching on the dialogue between North Korea and the United States, he said: "If the nuclear safeguards agreement is ratified and the North and the South are turned into a nuclear-free zone, the last obstacle to dialogue with the United States will disappear." He then said that now that the cold war structure has collapsed, there is no reason why North Korea and the United States should remain adversaries.

Regarding the normalization of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan, he said: "Unless Japan apologizes for its past wrongs and properly compensates for them, the establishment of diplomatic relations is impossible," thus stressing that compensation for the period after the war is also a precondition for the normalization of relations. He strongly denied the rumor that North Korea will compromise for a modest amount to solve its economic problems and stressed that North Korea will stick to its principles.

North's 'Delay' of Subcommittee Decision Berated

SK3103082392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Panmunjom, March 31 (YONHAP)—South Korea urged North Korea to agree to early installation of a military hotline and creation of a joint military commission Tuesday.

The South, in the second meeting of the South-North Military Subcommittee, said preparations for the Military Commission could not be delayed any longer as there was only one month left before the agreed-on deadline to form the commission.

Southern delegates stressed that a hotline between the senior military authorities of the two sides was another matter that was pressing yet easy to agree on.

In the meeting, held at Peace House in the southern sector of the truce village of Panmunjom from 10 A.M., the South proposed discussions to define sensitive words regarding armed clashes and to set emergency steps to be taken in the event of an inadvertent armed clash.

Creation of the Military Commission, along with commissions in several other areas, was envisioned in the basic inter-Korean agreement that went into force in February.

In the meeting, the South accused the North of deliberately attempting to delay inauguration of the Military Commission.

It was a delaying tactic for the North Koreans to insist on signing and putting into effect a comprehensive agreement on non-aggression at the seventh prime ministerial talks, which are slated for May in Seoul, and setting up the Military Commission based only on an accord auxiliary to the main agreement on non-aggression, the South said.

No Tae-u, Takeshita Discuss Fishing Pact Dispute

OW3003173392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1558 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Monday met with South Korean President No Tae-u to discuss bilateral affairs.

Takeshita, currently chairman of the Japan-(South) Korea Parliamentarians League, told reporters after the 30-minute meeting that they took up a recently concluded South Korea-Russia fishing pact covering the waters off the disputed Russian-held islands east of Hokkaido. Japan is claiming the territorial right over the islands which were seized by the former Soviet Union after the end of World War II.

No expressed his considerations on Japan's position stressing the importance of exchanging views on such subjects, Takeshita said.

On Wednesday, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada asked South Korean Ambassador to Japan O Chae-hui to quickly abandon the South Korea-Russian fishing agreement which covers the disputed area. Owada was referring to the deal Seoul and Moscow recently concluded allowing South Korean fishing boats to operate in the 200-mile zone around the four Japanese-claimed islands of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islet group. The waters surrounding the islands are considered to be among the richest fishing grounds in the northern Pacific.

During Monday's meeting, No also told Takeshita the poor showing of South Korea's ruling party in last Tuesday's general election will not affect cooparative relations between the two nations, the former Japanese premier said.

Talks With Japan Discuss Economic 'Action Plan'

SK3103103692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0856 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold a second round of intergovernmental talks April 2-3 in Seoul to draw up an "action plan" to rectify the snowballing trade deficit in Tokyo's favor.

Koichiro Matsura, assistant foreign minister for economic affairs, will come to Seoul with 12 other delegates for the talks with his South Korean counterpart, Ho Sung. The two head the South Korea-Japan trade and industrial technology cooperation committee, which was formed in January when Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visited Seoul. South Korean President No Tae-u and Miyazawa agreed to finish the action plan by the end of June for concrete measures in reducing the trade imbalance.

Seoul recorded an 8.7 billion-U.S.-dollar deficit with Tokyo last year out of a total 9.6 billion-dollar shortfall. The figure is more than double the 4 billion-dollar deficit of 1989 and a further increase from the 5.9 billion-dollar red figure in 1990.

Trade issues were top priorities in the No-Miyazawa summits in January.

South Korean demands include establishing a government-level science and technology foundation for technology transfers, wider access to the Japanese market and a forum between businessmen.

President Reshuffles Vice Ministerial Posts

SK3103094892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0928 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u named Yun Song-tae, vice health and social affairs minister, as the chief of administration coordination at the prime minister's office Tuesday.

In a partial reshuffle of vice minister-level officials following up a cabinet reorganization Monday, Yi Won-chong, presidential secretary for administrative affairs, was appointed governor of North Chungchong Province.

Yun's post at the Health-Social Affairs Ministry was filled by Pak Chung-pu, who was promoted from the assistant minister of budget at the Economic Planning Board.

Sim Tae-pyong, former administrative coordinator of the prime minister's office, was named senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs on Monday.

Yun, 50, is a native of Kimchon, North Kyongsang Province. A graduate of Seoul National University, he served as the director-general for social insurance at the Health-Social Affairs Ministry and a presidential secretary for political affairs.

Yi, 50, is a native of Chechon, North Chungchong Province. A graduate of Songgyungwan University, he served as a director-general at the Seoul city administration and a presidential secretary for administrative affairs.

Pak, 50, is a native of Changnyong, South Kyongsang Province. A graduate of Seoul National University, he served as assistant EPB minister for planning and management.

No Pledges Fairness in DLP Nomination Process

SK3103100992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0738 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u on Tuesday pledged to do his best to ensure fairness in his party's nomination of a candidate for president in may.

"Not once in the 40-year history of constitutional rule has the ruling party nominated its presidential candidate through open competition," No said in a ceremony congratulating the members of his Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) elected to the National Assembly in last week's general elections.

"I will determinedly keep to the principle of open competition to earn the approval of party members and the people," he said.

DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has already announced he is vying for the party's nomination. Rep. Yi Chong-chan, leader of an intraparty anti-Kim faction, has told No he also plans to seek the nomination at the DLP convention in May.

Party sources say Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun and No confidant Pak Chol-on are soon to follow suit.

No ends his single five-year term in February next year and is ineligible for re-election.

The May convention would be the best opportunity to show to the people the DLP's unity and determination for reform, No told the lawmakers-elect.

The party had to make the convention a chance to regain public trust, he said, warning that any action harming party discipline in the process of competition would be duly punished.

DLP Preparing for Presidential Nomination Race

SK3003134992 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 30 Mar 92 p 3

[Article by reporters Yang Sang-hun and Kim Kyo-chun: "Strategy by Factions of the Democratic Liberal Party in Competing for the Presidential Candidacy"]

[Text] The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is briskly preparing for the race for the presidential nomination, the first of its kind in the ruling party's history.

Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and his followers appears to have set in motion a stampede to shore up supporters under the slogan "civilian-led politics" and "no alternative," while the anti-YS [Kim Yong-sam] camps were busy on Sunday, 29 March, trying to find a single candidate from their own factions.

Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan Quickens His Pace

On 29 March, for the second day in a row, the anti-YS camps were busy contacting their influential lawmakers in preparation for the May national convention. Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan, who is the most busy of the anti-YS members, met lawmaker Pak Chol-on, who just returned from from Taegu, and Kim Yong-hwan, from the former Democratic Republican Party [DRP], following his meeting with Co- chairman Pak Tae-chun, who had been invited to the breakfast meeting at Chongwadae on 28 March.

On 29 March lawmaker Yi discussed measures to be taken for the race for presidential candidate with about 10 lawmakers elected in the central part of the country, such as Chang Kyong-u, Yi Sang-ha, and Pak Pom-chin. He is also pushing for an exclusive meeting with President No Tae-u at the beginning of the week. If and when he succeeds in obtaining an exclusive audience with President No, he is expected to be informed of what was discussed at the No-YS talks and where the president stands.

Lawmaker Yi is reported to have stressed in his contacts with Co-chairman Pak and lawmaker Pak Chol-on the need for the anti-YS members to be unified and nominate a single candidate from the anti-YS forces. He is also reported to have sounded out lawmaker Kim Yong-hwan on the possibility of a collaboration between the anti-YS Democratic Justice Party and the DRP factions.

Even Co-chairman Pak met on 28 March with lawmakers Chong Sok-mo, Choe Chae-uk, and Yi Kwang-no, in addition to his meeting with lawmaker Yi Chong-chan, to discuss the "future"; on 29 March he received heads of the local DLP chapters in Honam [North, South Cholla Provinces], including former lawmaker Cho Nam-hui, at his house. He also had lawmaker No In-hwan counsel him.

Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil stayed indoors, even on 29 March, for the fifth day.

In a press meeting on 29 March, lawmaker Pak Chol-on said: "I will clarify my course of action around 10th of next month." He thus did not rule out the possibility of entering the race for the presidential nomination. He also announced his intention to begin earnest contacts with lawmakers, saying: "Beginning today, I will meet many people and consider their opinion before making my final decision."

Mr. Kim Pok-tong and lawmaker Sim Myong-po are expected to come up to Seoul soon and begin their activities in earnest in preparation for the national convention. Yi Cha-hon, DLP floor leader and considered to be neutral, is also expected to come up to Seoul on 30 March. Lawmaker O Yu-pang, core member of the anti-YS forces, who lost his seat in the general elections but is actively meeting with Co-chairman Pak Tae-chung and others, was busy on 29 March to rally lawmakers around the anti-YS cause.

Meanwhile, DLP Secretary General Yi Chun-ku who is known as "the president's special emissary," is also reported to be listening to the opinion of those aligned with the ruling party.

The anti-YS forces' strategy for the presidential nomination is to harden the notion that "even if YS is nominated for the presidential election, his chance of winning is scant." Those who stand in the van of the anti-YS forces have already begun concentrating massive efforts on spreading this claim.

Anti-Two-Kims Sentiment Was Confirmed During the General Election Campaigns

Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan and his followers said: YS has a scarce chance of winning in the presidential election because he has no supporters in Honam and North Kyongsang Province. A survey also shows that he has few supporters in the central part of the country.

His associates stressed: This being the case, the presidential candidate should be a man who is capable of winning support in the central part of the country and from those in their thirties and forties, thereby pointing out the inevitability of Yi Chong-chan as the candidate.

Lawmaker Pak Chol-on also denounced co-chairman Kim, saying: Ultimately, it is the people who choose. What will the people think of someone who declared his entry into the race for the presidential nomination right after the party suffered a humiliating defeat in the general elections?

The anti-YS camps believe that if the presidential election boils down to a competition between Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, and Chong Chu-yong, the leader of the Unification National Party [UNP], it can lead the DLP to another defeat like the general elections. They reason that if this happens, the DLP may end up suffering an unexpected defeat after losing votes to the UNP candidate, votes that could have been cast in support of the ruling party candidate.

The group inside the DLP that calls for a new type of politics insisted: If Executive Chairman Kim runs for the presidency, the TK [Taegu, North Kyongsang Province] votes that constitute the backbone of the DLP will inevitably be divided. So the DLP should try to prevail over the opposition with a slogan calling for a change of generations.

In particular, those in this group, defining the delegates from Honam and the JP [Kim Chong-pil]-controlled delegates as clear-cut anti-YS forces, said: A single anti-YS candidate supported by these forces, who account for about 30 percent of the delegates to the national convention, has a big chance of winning the nomination.

In the belief that the results of the general elections are an expression of "anti-two Kims public sentiment," this group intends to persuade all the delegates with this reasoning.

Nonetheless, no one could clearly answer the essential question: Who will be the single anti-YS candidate? Those who are now considered to be the contenders of the presidential office, including Co-chairman Pak, lawmaker Yi Chong-chan, lawmaker Pak Chol-on, and Mr. Kim Pok-tong, all secretly hope that they can run in the presidential election, and it will be a taxing endeavor to decide who will win the nomination. Thus, the anti-YS groups inside the DLP face the inevitable task of settling the issue of nominating a single anti-YS candidate among themselves.

It is difficult for lawmaker Yi Chong-chan to overcome the rejection by the influential DJP faction members such as Yi Chun-ku, Yi Han-tong, and Pak Chun-pyong, as well as the TK forces, while Co-chairman Pak says his candidacy hinges on one condition: If all support me as a single candidate, I will run.

It is true that because of their special circumstances—they are relatives of the incumbent president—Pak Chol-on and Kim Pok-tong are at a disadvantage. Also, it is true that their roles make the competition for a single anti-YS candidate more complicated.

The anti-YS groups are optimistic that eventually they will be able to nominate a single candidate, because they all realize that if more than one person runs for the presidential nomination, they will never defeat Executive Chairman Kim.

Moreover, they expect that if they manage to nominate a single anti-YS candidate only after the candidates are registered, it will multiply the effect.

Concerning this, lawmaker Pak said: In the end we will manage to nominate a single candidate. We may not be able to do so by the registration deadline. However, supposing that no candidate for the presidential nomination will win a majority on the first ballot, we can expect a single candidate by the second ballot.

Executive Chairman Kim, who seems to believe that is one jump ahead of the others, was briskly on the move, paying a surprise visit to Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil at his house in Chonggu-tong, who has stayed indoors since he submitted a letter of resignation, and persuaded him to return to his duty in the party.

Request for JP's Return to Party Work

Executive chairman Kim arrived in front of JP's house in Chongkudong by car at 2030 on 29 March but drove by as he saw some reporters waiting at the gate. He returned five minutes later, entered the house with a hard look on his face, and talked for about 30 minutes until 2105.

With a brighter face than when he entered the house, Chairman Kim came out and simply said: "The talks were sufficient. Everything went smoothly," and got in his car. Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil went out to the gate and saw him off.

Returning to his home at Sangdodong, Executive Chairman Kim said: "How can I tell the whole story about the talks between only ourselves?" and kept silent. As soon as he returned home, Chairman Kim telephoned Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, and notified him of the visit to Chongkudong. Close associates of Chairman Kim observe that during YS-JP talks, Executive Chairman Kim might have explained to JP the details of his talks with President No at Chongwadae, as well as background on his decision to seek the presidential nomination, and asked for JP's cooperation.

Asked about when JP will return to his party work, a close associate of Executive Chairman Kim said that "since there is no important schedule on 30 March, JP will not come to the party, but I am certain that he will come to Chongwadae on 31 March to attend a luncheon for the party's winners in the parliamentary elections." Thus, Executive Chairman Kim and his close associates appeared optimistic about the situation.

Possibility of Constitutional Revision for Cabinet System Dissipated

The main reason that Executive Chairman Kim's faction is so optimistic is that the outcome of the recent general elections has dissipated the possibility of constitutional revision favoring the cabinet system.

The outcome of the general elections showed that the number of DLP winners in the general elections is far short what is needed for a constitutional revision and is one seat short of a majority. As a result, Kim Tae-chung, DP chairman, won the victory that gave him a "dream" for the presidency.

This means that even the possibility of raising the issue of a cabinet system by the opposition, not to mention the ruling circles, is blocked.

The issue of a cabinet system has been the greatest obstacle to Chairman Kim's advancement toward the presidency for two years, since the three political parties were integrated. However, with that issue vanishing, Executive Chairman Kim's faction, viewing YS as the only choice, maintains that although anti-YS forces within the DLP continuously attacked YS in the past by raising the issue of "competency," their act is the same as "shooting YS, who is exposed to the public, while hiding themselves."

In other words, when YS and the runner from anti-YS side compete in the "ring," their difference will become clear.

Executive Chairman Kim's side said that even though anti-Kim Yong-sam's forces are trying to claim that "Kim Yong-sam cannot take the presidency," when the national convention is held they will be convinced that only Kim Yong-sam can run against Kim Tae-chung victoriously. Executive Chairman Kim's side also noted that one of the reasons why the old ruling party decided to merge the three parties is that it had no person capable of seeking the presidency, and this is still true.

Executive Chairman Kim's side believes that the reason those people related to the old ruling party cannot easily run for a presidential candidate is that they came from the Army or intelligence organizations.

Thus, Executive Chairman Kim's side is planning to expand and rearrange the pro-Kim Yong-sam forces, transcending the existing Democratic Party's faction. To this end, since the merger of the three parties, Executive Chairman Kim has continued to absorb the lawmakers attached to the Democratic Justice Party faction.

Of course, Executive Chairman Kim's side knows that for its optimistic plan to work, President No's support is necessary. Even though Executive Chairman Kim's side itself claims a "complete competition" and President No takes a "neutral position," it does not think that President No will remain removed.

A source on Kim Yong-sam's side said that "the last card that President No can play, with his term about to end, is to decide on his successor or to exercise a similar influence in a bid to protect himself after his term expires." The source noted that "with the opposition parties talking about holding hearings, it is nonsense for President No to leave office without playing his last card."

Executive Chairman Kim's side appears convinced of this, thinking: "If President No ignores the trend toward democracy and the people's desire for rational politics, there is no other alternative for him."

Along with this, Executive Chairman Kim's side intends to hold full-fledged contacts with deputies the beginning of the next week to garner their support for Kim Yong-sam. Executive Chairman Kim's side will dispatch its organization staff to the 58 local chapters whose reorganization is completed. Executive Chairman Kim's side will stress the need for "Kim Yong-sam's victory" at rallies for reorganizing local chapters afterwards. His followers are considering sending letters to deputies.

Kim Yong-sam Foes Seeking Alternative

SK3103041092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] Although the presidential election is still about nine months away, rival factions within the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] have begun to engage in fierce competition for the party's presidential nomination.

The nomination race started Saturday when Kim Yong-sam, the party's executive chairman, formally announced his candidacy for the DLP presidential nomination in May.

Kim's opponents in the party are jockeying to search for a figure to stand against Kim in a free contest.

Two leading DLP figures are being referred to as possible candidates, though they have not yet made public their intentions. They are Pak Tae-chun, the party's co-chairman, and Yi Chong-chan, a leading DLP lawmaker. Both men belong to the party's largest faction led by President No Tae-u.

No, whose single five-year term ends in February next year, cannot seek reelection.

Pak, 64, who is said to be weighing the possibility of running in his party's presidential nomination convention, had a series of meetings with his followers over the weekend.

Yesterday, Pak, also the long-standing chairman of the mighty Pohang Iron and Steel Co., met with leading DLP lawmakers, Pak Chol-on, Sim Myong-po and Kim Yong-hwan. Pak and Sim belong to the mainstream faction, while Kim is loyal to Kim Chong-pil, another party co-chairman.

They reportedly agreed to the need to pick their own candidate to pit against Kim Yong-sam and carry out what they called "generational changes in political circles."

Pak was quoted as stressing during those meetings that the anti-Kim Yong-sam factions should choose their own presidential hopeful soon.

A close confidant of Pak, meanwhile, contended that if Yi Chong-chan is picked to vie with Kim, it would seriously erode unity among the anti-Kim Yong-sam faction members.

The comments were taken to mean that Pak is ardently aspiring to be the single candidate to compete with Kim Yong-sam, a former opposition leader who heads the party's second largest faction.

Meantime, Yi Chong-chan, who was reelected in Seoul's Chongno constituency in last week's parliamentary elections, will soon formally announce his candidacy for the party's presidential nomination.

Yi visited President No at Chongwadae yesterday and informed him of his plan to run in the nomination race, a spokesman for Yi said.

No was quoted as telling Yi that those vying for the nomination should see to it that the competition be conducted in a fair manner.

Party sources said Yi may not give up presidential ambitions even though the anti-Kim factions oppose his candidacy.

On Sunday, Yi met with a close confidant of party Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil who leads the party's third faction. They were said to have agreed to form a common front against Kim.

Yi, 56, heads the "New Politics Group" which bands together several senior DLP lawmakers who are not loyal to Kim. They have strived to establish what they call "clean politics" in the country.

Rep. Pak Chol-on, on the other hand, also appears determined to block Kim Yong-sam from becoming the party's candidate for the presidential election expected in December.

Pak, a leading foe of Kim Yong-sam, is also said to be considering entering the nomination race. He said he will reveal his position later.

Pak, a brother-in-law of President No, called on Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil Sunday. Pak has a dozen party lawmakers who are loyal to him.

Kim Yong-sam, meanwhile, unexpectedly visited Kim Chong-pil at his home in central Seoul and asked him to return to party duties. Kim Chong-pil has not reported to work since his party's poor showing in last week's parliamentary elections.

It is not clear whether Kim Chong-pil will support Kim Yong-sam who has been actively courting President No to support his bid to become a DLP presidential candidate.

Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil Meeting Criticized

SK3103070892 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 31 Mar 92 p 2

[From the "Guest Room" Column]

[Text] Members of the Republican faction led by Kim Chong-pil, co-chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], on 30 March criticized DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam for his abrupt visit to DLP Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil's house the previous evening, saying that "the visit was an event which vividly revealed the symptoms of Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam's chronic disease of aspiring to become president and his tactics in dealing with the press."

A figure close to Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil said that "if Executive Chairman Kim's visit had really been to seek the party's unity by persuading Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil to withdraw his resignation from the co-chairmanship, how could he make such an abrupt visit, which was reminiscent of 'housebreaking,' without giving advance notice to Co-chairman Kim while informing reporters in advance of his planned visit?" He added, "even more, how could he lead reporters to make the false report that Co-chairman Kim would withdraw his resignation soon and return to party work?"

This figure also said that "nothing was discussed at the meeting between Executive Chairman Kim and Co-chairman Kim," adding, "but, Co-chairman Kim iterated his established stand that now that he has resigned from the co-chairmanship he will work for the party as an ordinary party member in the future."

He also said that "Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam's unilateral act is precisely one which spoils the basic spirit of the three-party merger."

Chong Chu-yong To Relinquish Control of Hyundai

SK3103060392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, founder of South Korea's largest conglomerate, creator of the Unification National Party and a lawmaker-elect, said Tuesday he was relinquishing his rights as a shareholder of the Hyundai Group "without any condition and forever."

Chong told a press conference his move was necessary for the UNP to sever its "practical relationship" with the Hyundai Group and grow into a full-fledged political party.

He would pledge in public not to exercise his shareholder's rights as soon as his lawyers had his promise notarized, he said.

Chong denied speculation he would donate part of his wealth to public welfare organizations and said he would sell as many of his shares as possible to "use the money for the public through political activities."

Ruling Democratic Liberal Party Spokesman Pak Hui-tae said that Chong would be able to revoke his pledge as it had no basis in law and the head of the UNP was simply trying to deceive the people through a process that had no legally binding power.

If Chong really wanted to adhere to the principle of the separation of politics and business, Pak said, he should disclose plans to sell his shares and then start doing it.

Chong, commenting on other subjects, said that, at the moment, his party was not considering amending the constitution in favor of the parliamentary cabinet system, nor did the UNP contemplate the introduction of a vice presidency into the executive branch of government.

Chong said the UNP would nominate a presidential candidate at a party convention after the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the Democratic Party had nominated their candidates.

Chong hinted, however, that he might be the party's choice by saying there would be no difficulty in making the selection.

Divestiture Called 'Ploy'

SK3103041492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—Plans announced by Chong Chu-yong to distance himself from the Hyundai group by handing control over his vast holdings in the conglomerate to his brother are a ploy to release the Unification National Party, founded and headed by Chong, from charges that it's "Hyundai's party."

Chong, an enormously wealthy industrialist who single-handedly built the nation's largest conglomerate from scratch, resigned as honorary chairman of the group and formed the political party in January.

At that time, Chong said he would transfer control over his shares and all the associated rights to his younger brother, Hyundai chairman Chong Se-yong.

His announcement Monday that the transfer would be made legal by having it notarised stemmed from the widespread public view that, despite the earlier statement, Chong did not completely sever his ties with Hyundai.

Public misgivings are not without ground. Repeated statements by the party and Hyundai to the contrary, Hyundai affiliates were behind Chong's party in full force in the March 24 general elections. Thanks to the unreserved support from Hyundai, Chong's party faired better than generally expected and garnered more than enough seats to form an independent negotiating body.

Its initial goal achieved, the party is now moving to demolish any barriers to the further expansion of its influence.

This is especially important if Chong intends to run in the presidential election this year, as some party officials have suggested.

The legal action to cut ties with Hyundai was also intended to soothe rival business groups, which became restless after Chong's party did well in the elections.

Many observers doubt if a little notarization will do anything to separate Chong and his party from Hyundai.

"Didn't Hyundai firms heartily support Chong's party during the elections, despite Chong's initial statement that he would transfer control to someone else?" An official of a rival group asks.

If Chong legally relinquishes control over his shares to his brother, Hyundai chairman Chong Se-yong, it will bolster the younger Chong's position. If the transfer is notarized, Chong Se-yong will have his brother's power of attorney and be able to vote all of his shares.

Chong Chu-yong is estimated to own shares in Hyundai companies valued at 2 trillion won (2.6 billion U.S. dollars) at current market prices, including 22,530,000 shares (53.7 percent) in Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

Complete Severance of Ties Urged

SK3103025692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Mar 92 p 8

[From the "News in Review" column by deputy economics editor Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Once upon a time, a lion was just going to devour a hare which he had found asleep, when he saw a deer go by. So he left the hare to pursue the deer, and the hare, awakened by the noise, ran away. After a long chase the lion found he could not catch the deer, and when he went back to catch the hare he found that it too had taken flight. The lion said, "It deserves me right, for letting go the food I had in my grasp, in the hope of getting something better." This is a story in the Fables of Aesop, showing that a greedy man can even lose a bird in the hand.

This fable may be a good lesson for Chong Chu-yong who has successfully plunged headfirst into politics, cashing in on the well-organized networks of his huge corporate empire the Hyundai Group and the refined market strategy he has polished in business. In his war with the government, Chong did well. But the problem is what happens from now on. Chong is now at a crossroads and has to select which path to go, politics or business. If he fails to make a wise judgement, he risks losing both hare and deer as in the Aesop fable.

The March 24 general elections were surely a stunning defeat for No Tae-u's governing party and a clear triumph for Hyundai Group founder Chong. The bitterly-fought elections, widely described as a referendum on the four-year performance of the ruling party, was undisputably a slap at President No's mismanagement of state affairs, which has long caused the people to worry about political unrest and economic troubles.

The Korean people have been and continue to point accusatory fingers at "chaebol," business conglomerates, for their unethical business activities. Nonetheless, they gave many votes to Chong's two-months-old fledgling chaebol party, enough to form an independent negotiating group in the National Assembly. What prompted the voters to choose Chong's conglomerate party. Because they like the chaebols? The answer is absolutely no.

Common to the general analyses is the agreement that the growing disillusionment with No's administration led the voters to choose Chong's new party as an alternative option. This is an important point the business magnate-turned-politician should keep in mind.

In reality, Chong's party is seen to have a political weightiness as it has the casting vote in determining major policies in the parliament. Furthermore, political ripples are expected to heighten if Chong or a proxy runs for the presidential race scheduled for the year-end.

Even if his party does not field a presidential candidate, observers see Chong playing a considerable political role in the upcoming presidential election through such political activities as coalitions with a specific party to help it win.

From this view, any course of action Chong takes in the future will have a great effect upon the future of national politics and business community.

To prevent possible disasters arising from the emergence of the Chong-led party, some suggestions in order.

Firstly, the broadly-supported principle of separation of politics from economy should be strictly observed in the interests of Chong's Unification National Party (UNP), the Hyundai Group itself, and the whole business community as well. To be more specific, Chong should refrain from seeking specific benefits for Hyundai through political lobbying by his party. If the UNP tries to work only for the interests of the Hyundai Group, other conglomerates will form a united front against it. If Chong works only to ensure a greater piece of the pie for Hyundai, it is the act of betraying the people's support for his party, which will ultimately lead to the end of his life as a politician and a businessman. Chong should even embrace his rival business group Daewoo despite their past stormy relationship.

Secondly, Chong should trust his personal assets amounting to 3 trillion won to public organizations while being the head of a political party. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was the proprietor of a vast peanut farm in Georgia and trusted his personal assets after he took office. Carter's behavior may provide a good lesson for Chong.

Thirdly, Chong's party should maintain the spirit of fair play with the administration despite the past bitter experience of the payment of a huge 140 billion won in penalty taxes by Hyundai.

The 76-year-old man had declared his departure from the Hyundai Group before founding the UNP. Notwithstanding, Chong used a vast amount of funds and business networks belonging to the nation's largest conglomerate in the just-ended elections. The only way to muscle through hard times lying ahead of Chong is his substantial and bona fide severance of ties with Hyundai founded by himself.

Independent Joins UNP

SK3103024792 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 31 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Chong Chu-yong, leader of the Unification National Party [UNP], announced on 30 March that ex-lawmaker Kim Chong-nam, who ran and was elected in the 14th general elections as an independent in Samchok, Kangwon Province, has decided to join the UNP.

Consequently, UNP seats in the 14th National Assembly has increased to 32. The UNP will reshuffle its party post holders on 31 March, and it is reported that Cho Sun-hwan will be appointed as the party's spokesman.

UNP Trying To Implement Election Pledges

SK3103081292 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 30 Mar 92 p 2

[From the "Political Lounge" column]

[Text] Soon after the general elections, the Unification National Party [UNP] has launched preparations for presidential elections slated for the end of the year. The UNP started to work out detailed plans for implementing pledges made by party Chairman Chong Chu-yong in local areas during stumping for general elections.

A relevant official in the policy-making office of the party said that "the detailed implementation plans are being worked out based on the principle that the public pledges should be implemented without fail." He then revealed that "the work to build a 4-year-system industrial technological college, similar to Pohang Engineering College, in Wonju, Kangwon Province, will begin soon."

This official also said that "some independent lawmakers-elect proposed installation of electronics complexes in their electoral district as a precondition for their joining the UNP. Thus, the UNP is reviewing this issue." He added that among the independent lawmakers-elect, those targeted for UNP membership are: Chong Ho-yong, Ho Hwa-pyong, Ha Sun-pong, Choe Ton-ung, Kim Chong-nam, Yang Chong-kyu and Pyon Chong-il, totaling more than 10 persons.

Meanwhile, it was reported that party Chairman Chong Chu-yong will meet Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party, this week. Thus, the report on their meeting attracts the people's attention as a political development after the general elections. A high-ranking UNP official said that "Chairman Chong received a congratulatory telephone call from Chairman Kim on 27 March and the two seemed to have made a promise to meet each other."

Construction Boom Blamed for 'Overheated' Economy

SK3103022792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] A Hong Kong-based consulting firm said that Korea has been trying with only limited success to slow the overheated economy.

The Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. said real GNP rate of 8.4 percent in 1991 outran the Bank of Korea's computed optimal rate of 6.8-7.2 percent.

Booming construction is the most frequently cited culprit for the excess economic activity. However, the Construction Ministry has mitigated the restrictions on building activity, it said.

It noted that the Korean government has flip-flopped in the past years between extensive construction schemes, most notably housing and road building, to various moratoria on building, and most recently to the lifting of restrictive measures against commercial construction because it is not an issue that voters are concerned about.

The consulting firm, one of the respected monitors of Korea's economy and politics, added that there is also disagreement between the Finance Ministry and the Trade-Industry Ministry over the best way to support small business enterprises and export-oriented companies with the limited funds available.

It noted that basically, the Trade-Industry Ministry wants to expand the scope of businesses eligible for special assistance, while the Finance Ministry opposes such a plan as being insufficient.

Current recipients of assistance also fear that they will be squeezed out by the inclusion of larger companies. The Finance Ministry is pushing for the sake of controlling growth and stabilizing prices, while the Trade-Industry Ministry wants to push for revitalization of the export sector, it said.

It said inadequate roads and port facilities caused delays in the nation's trade activities last year, pointing up the need for infrastructure development to keep pace with economic development. This year, real infrastructure must compete with the frivolous: Ruling party parliamentary candidates promised various regional development projects while opponents question some of the projects' necessity or feasibility, it said.

It noted that many such projects are being criticized in the local press as pork-barrel politics. Democratization has turned the budgetary process into a political football, and the game is likely to increase in intensity as the economy slows at the same time that policy makers come under close scrutiny, it said.

Korea's budget for 1992, at 44.3 billion dollars, is up 5.8 percent from last year's figure, after including 1991's supplementary budgets.

As part of its attempt to rein in the economy, the government has declared that there will be no supplementary budget this year. The government also expects its budget to be contractionary, continuing a string of surpluses.

Capital Market Liberalization Plans Revised

SK3103015192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0121 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—The government will revise its capital market opening plans after consulting international organizations and domestic and foreign research institutes.

The Finance Ministry said Tuesday that the government, under U.S. pressure, had recently proposed to the United States the liberalization of South Korea's capital market in three stages.

It had since decided to revise the timetable, however, taking economic developments into consideration, a ministry official said .

The government believed it could carry out the first stage of the proposed liberalization plan, but it would have to undertake comprehensive study before proceeding with the second and third phases, the official said.

It would send officials to the international monetary fund in Washington on April 26 to seek its recommendation for an opening of Korea's capital market suited to the economic conditions of the country, he said.

The government expected the IMF to send a team of experts to Korea to study the country's capital market and other economic conditions, the official said, requesting anonymity.

He added that the government hoped the IMF recommendation would be much more realistic than the "one-sided demand" made by the United States for opening Korea's capital market.

The government notified the United States of its request for an IMF study when officials of the two countries met in Washington on March 10, he said.

The United States agreed to the South Korean proposal, the official said, adding that the government will further discuss details of its plans when officials visit the U.S. capital for their talks with IMF officials late next month.

The government would make a final decision after studying the IMF proposal and recommendations by other research organizations, he said.

Machinery for 1992-96 Domestic Production Listed

SK3103105992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—The Trade and Industry Ministry listed 632 machinery items and parts as targets of localization in 1992-1996 Tuesday, 522 for development and 110 for mass production.

The list contains 313 machinery items and parts (including a continuous evaporation system), 282 electronic and electric goods and parts (including a fine-pattern D.C. brushless motor) and 35 materials (including heat-resistant steel for engine valves).

Successful localization would save imports of over 1 million U.S. dollars a year for each of the goods and 500,000 dollars a year for each of the parts. Priority was given to items that could replace imports from Japan, the ministry said.

The localization task force can expect long-term, low-interest loans from the industrial development fund, pattern-adjustment fund for small- and medium-sized firms and Korea Development Bank's technological development fund, it said.

PRC Farm Products Flowing Into Local Market

SK3003140292 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 29 Mar 92 p 12

[Article by reporter Kim Yong-hwan]

[Text] Chinese agricultural products such as beans, sesame, peanuts, brackens, and codonopsis lanceolate, which have already made large inroads into domestic markets, are still pouring into our country through the port of Inchon and further threatening the existence of our farmers.

Marine products are no exception. Croakers, tuna, various kinds of clams, and even loach are pouring into Inchon. It is likely that the introduction of these cheap Chinses agricultural products will increase as the transport time of these products has been reduced since the car-ferry services connecting between Weihai-Tianjin of China and Inchon port opened recently. This situation strongly demands that our government take appropriate measures.

Besides these Chinese agricultural products, various kinds of foreign agricultural products from North Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian countries are coming through Inchon.

According to reports on 28 March from the Office of Inchon Maritime and Port Authority and the Office of Inchon District Customs Administration, with the opening of the car-ferry services between Weihai-Tianjin of China and Inchon, 10 tons of loach went through the port of Inchon from China last November for the first time. Following that, 70 tons of loach came through Inchon this January. As of February a total of 85 tons of loach and 100 tons of various kinds of clams have come through Inchon. Besides these marime products, 73 tons of dried sea cucumber and 37 tons of frozen croakers were reportedly imported from China.

In agricultural products, 222.5 tons of dried persimmons, 219 tons of acorn, 175 tons of dried radish slices, 22.6 tons of dried sweet potato stalk, and other agricultural products such as dried brackens, dried royal ferns, sesame leaf, codonopsis lanceolate, fatsia shoots, and mushroom—totaling more than 2,000 tons—were imported from China during the last two months.

The amount of agricultural products imported from China last year amounted to 16 percent of the total import amount of agricultural products, which ranked second behind the United States (29 percent). Before 1990, Chinese agricultural products coming through the port of Inchon were merely beans and secondary raw materials for use in producing livestock feed. But in the last two to three years the import of Chinese agricultural products has sharply increased, because the prices of these Chinese agricultural products were remarkably cheap compared with our domestic products and their transportation costs were also very low.

Along with this, the import of Chinese processed food produced from its cheap agricultural products and labor force has sharply inceased. As a result, some domestic enterprises are reportedly in a serious and difficult situation.

For instance, with the recent introduction of noodles into domestic markets, many dosmetic enterprises engaging in noodle production have reportedly been suffering.

An official of a domestic enterprise concerned said that "the pressure by the United States and other Western countries to open markets for their agricultural products is definitely a big headache, but what is more serious is how we should take measures to cope with the cheap agricultural products pouring into our country from China and other Southeast Asian countries." He added that "another problem is that cheap brackens, dried persimmons, and gingseng imported from these countries have been disguised as domestically produced products and sold in our domestic markets at a high price."

Illegal Foreign Workers Said Causing Crime Problem

SK3103040792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Murders of three Pakistanis last week in Korea, allegedly by their rival compatriot gangsters, have aroused popular attention to the seriousness of foreigners' crimes in the country.

The murder cases have confirmed the existence of long-rumored foreign organized crime organizations in the country, police said.

The stabbing to death of Amer Liade Qadeer, 28, Tuesday morning in the street of Seoul's Itaewon was found to have been carried out by six Pakistanis belonging to a rival gang organization known as "Viki faction," police said.

Liade is a member of the "Zubi faction," a Pakistani gang organization active in Seoul, police said.

Last Saturday, two Pakistani men were discovered dead with multiple stab wounds all over their bodies in a mountain in Songnam, southeast of the capital city.

Their bodies were first found by a Korean man who was climbing the mountain.

Police suspected that the murder in Songnam might have been executed by his rival Pakistani gang organization, "Zubi faction," to avenge the murder of an organization member, Amer Liade Qadeer, Tuesday in Itaewon.

Seoul police arrested eight members of the faction and are questioning their alleged involvement in the murder.

The arrested include Mian Mohamad Azaz, 31, the deputy leader of the Zubi faction, and Amar Jamil, 23.

The Pakistani gang organizations are the first known foreign criminal organizations to be active in Korea.

Seoul police believe that there are about three to four foreign crime organizations operating in Korea, including the two confirmed Pakistani organizations.

The flourishing of foreign criminal organizations coincides with a recent surge in the number of foreigners entering the country to work here illegally, mostly from such Southeast Asian nations as Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

The foreign organizations have thus far preyed primarily on compatriots who are overstaying their tourist visas and illegally working here.

The gang organizations have arranged for their compatriots to find jobs here and so regularly receive money from them, police said.

It is an unwritten law among foreigners that anyone who leaks the secret about their organization is to receive harsh punishment, police said.

This rule and the language barrier have kept Korean police from effectively tracking down the foreign criminal organizations, police said.

The Pakistani criminal organizations were known to have taken the passports from their compatriots who entered the country to get the job arranged by them upon their arrival here to keep them from fleeing.

Before the murders of the three Pakistanis last week, Korean police had already taken crime by foreigners seriously in the country, prompted by the steep increase in the number.

Seoul metropolitan police received reports about 369 cases of crimes involving 422 foreigners in 1989. The figure jumped to 668 cases implicating 821 foreigners in 1991.

The murders of three Pakistanis, police suspected, were triggered by the rival Pakistani criminal organizations' struggle to secure more foreign workers who come to Korea.

Korean police worried that if these foreign criminal organizations grow, they will alter their main target from their compatriots to Korean people.

There are already ample signs, police said. They refused to elaborate.

As a step to fight crimes by foreigners, police are considering collecting fingerprints from suspicious foreigners and copying their passport photos as they enter the country.

In 1991, about 2.9 million foreigners entered the country. At present, about 140,000 foreigners are long-term visitors, significant number of whom police suspect are overstaying their short-term tourist visas to illegally find jobs.

A more serious problem is that the illegal foreign workers are moving to such industries as prostitution and drug dealing, police said.

The real problem is that the country has no effective means of checking the rampant entry of foreigners illegally seeking jobs in the country, police said.

Many of the illegal foreigners here are from Southeast Asian countries which have established visa exemption accords with Korea, police said.

Burma

Saw Maung Gives Armed Forces Day Address

BK2703100192 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 2330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Address by Senior General Saw Maung, commander in chief of the Defense Services, at the 47th Armed Forces Day parade held at the Resistance Park, Rangoon—live]

[Excerpts] Comrades: Today is the 47th Armed Forces Day—Resistance Day. On this day and month 47 years ago our fraternal members of the Defense Services and the patriotic people officially declared resistance against the fascists, who ruled us unjustly, and repulsed them. [passage omitted]

On this significant day, I would like to address the situation in the country as well as changes in the international scene. After reviewing these changes I shall categorically state what our continuing tasks are for the interests of our nation and citizens. Much had been said on this subject in my speech in 1991.

Whether an action of an individual or a historical development of a nation, events of the past—whether good or bad—have an effect on the future. Therefore, we cannot forget and ignore past events. By this I refer to the law of cause and effect. It is necessary for us to objectively analyze the course of past events and draw lessons and think of what should be done for positive effects for the present and future.

In reviewing the history of our country's servitude, historical records clearly show how the British, Portuguese, and French imperialists unjustly committed aggression against us and bullied us. [passsage omitted on history of Western colonization in Burma]

Comrades: Today we must be aware of the need for all indigenous people to uphold the good historical tradition and anti-imperialist spirit of our fraternal indigenous brothers, who put up a valiant resistance against the imperialists. The British imperialist annexed our country after the third war of aggression in 1885. After our nation fell into servititude, our indigenous people put up stiff resistance for another 10 years and frightened the British imperialists. [passage omitted]

The imperialists denigrated our indigenous revolutionaries, who resisted them by describing them in their historical records as bandits and rascals. The truth is that the revolutionaries of those days are our heroes—our patriotic forefathers.

Our forefathers regarded their emperor king, who is the absolute monarch, as their lord and patron of the religion. They believed that only when the country is ruled by the crowned king would the life of the people be peaceful and prosperous and the religion flourish. When an incompetent king ruled they wanted a change in the monarchy. They did not want the monarchical system to be substituted with another form of administration. This shows patriotism and nationalism during different eras. For centuries, Burmese society was based on the tripartite relationship between three institutions—the king, the sangha [members of the Buddhist clergy], and the people. Following imperialist annexation, the monarchical system disappeared, there was no religious patron, and there was much concern for the future of the religion. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the lesson drawn from history is that internal strength is the true strength of national defense. We must also firmly believe in this lesson. Comrades: please take special note to understand, accept, and believe in the fact that our endeavors for carrying out our three cardinal tasks—prevention of disintegration of the union, prevention of disintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of sovereignty—are based on true internal strength. [passage omitted]

Next, I would like to speak on the importance of safeguarding and defending our country's independence by the Defense Services and the indigenous people. Independence is the state of having sovereignty, which means the citizens have the right to legislative, judicial, and executive powers according to their own wishes. In exercising these three main powers, we do not have to be afraid of any foreign power or any group. Independence means the right of every citizen to make their own decisions according to concrete conditions in the country. We need to have a prescribed territory and borders in order to exercise these three main powers. [passage omitted]

Comrades: Our country had existed as an independent nation for centuries until the imperialists annexed us and subjected us to servitude. As you well know, thousands of lives were sacrificed by our fraternal predecessors in the Defense Services and the people in striving to free ourselves from servitude. Although the British imperialists eventually granted independence to our country they caused discord and division among the indigenous people following independence, and sowed the seeds of internal insurgency.

Among the internal insurgent organizations today there are the KNU [Karen National Union], the KIA [Kachin Independence Army], and Karenni terrorist insurgents who remain obstinate and cling to extreme racial hatred. No one can deny that these insurgent organizations originated under the influence of the British imperialist government. They [Karens] believe that they descended from the Caucasus region, which bears no geographical relationship to ours. If one studies the historical record, it can be clearly seen that the imperialists are responsible for sowing racial hatred between the Bamah [Burmans] and Karens beginning a century ago. [passage omitted]

I would like to truthfully state here that in recalling historical events, I have no intention whatsoever of inciting resentment and racial hatred against Karen nationals by other indigenous nationals. I am referring only to some who are engaged in insurgency. I am merely pointing out that the fire that was started [by imperialists] is still causing hardship among our people until the present day. I do so with the good intention of learning from the past. The real culprits are the (?white) imperialists who wanted to sow discord and cause the union to disintegrate. Some armed organzations are still being used by the imperialists. [passage omitted]

To insurgent leaders—Nga Mya, who claimed to be the leader of the KNU and conferred upon himself the title of Bo [officer], Brang Seng; and so-called KIA leader, Khun Sa, who was once known as the opium king—I have this to say categorically: Our military government, known to Myanmar [Burma] as well as the rest of the world, is paving the way and guiding the emergence of democracy and human rights and the eradication of opium.

We are encouraging the emergence of a state constitution, which is urgently needed in the nation. Our military government will not determine matters on the future ideology and policy of the country, the form of the state, system of government, and citizens' rights and responsibilities. We have reiterated many times that we may give advice, if necessary. All these political matters are to be incorporated into the constitution in accordance with the wishes of the citizens.

At the present time, when political, social, and economic foundations are being reformed in the country, there is no reason to take up arms against us. All indigenous people should take the opportunity, at such a historic time of change, to cooperate in unity with our Defense Services. I would like to warn that opposition to our position and objectives today constitutes an attack against our Defense Services, and amounts to undermining the major cause of members of the entire union.

I would like to tell [insurgent leaders] to emulate the example of Kokang, Wa, Shan, some Kachin leaders, Pa-o, Palaung, and Padaung leaders, who are sincere and give priority to the interests of our indigenous people. I would like to say that it is about time to give up the policy of armed insurrection. To remain terrorists [preceding word in English] serves no purpose. I would like to say that the present time is the best time for joining with the Defense Services in working for the interests of the indigenous people and their development in Myanmar.

As for our Defense Services, which had been fighting unlawful armed insurgents since the inception of independence, we shall have to fight and crush the insurgents as long as armed insurgency remains. However, we bear no grudge whatsoever toward those who return to the legal fold, and render cordial assistance according to our tradition. I would especially like to point out that we do not fight out of racial hatred. We do not want killing among our own people. We would like understanding. At this time, I would like to call for a response to our goodwill.

Comrades: There is a need for all of you to know the true present political situation. Currently there are two political situations. The first situation concerns all nationals and national politics [preceding two words in English], while the second situation concerns political parties and party politics [preceding two words in English]. The national objectives that concern all nationals are the nondisintegration of the union, the nondisintegration of national solidarity, and ensurance of the perpetuity of national sovereignty. To materialize these national objectives, systematic endeavors should be made for the emergence of a new state constitution.

Two legal constitutions existed in our country after the end of the Second World War. The first one, the 1947 constitution—which was drawn up before independence—was more of a commandment with preference given to gaining independence. That constitution was drawn up by the 55-man commission led by General Aung San—at that time commander in chief of the Armed Forces—who later moved into politics. The constitution was drawn up in compliance with the wishes of the colonial British and their followers, after consideration for their wishes was given in order to avoid a delay in the granting of independence by the colonial British government. They must have believed that those weaknesses could be resolved after gaining independence, when better understanding and goodwill developed among the brotherhood of the national races. [passage omitted] The second constitution of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] was promulgated in 1974 after holding a national referendum. [passage omitted]

Presently, everyone knows that our Defense Services are governing with what they called martial law. Martial law is a law depending on what the commander in chief of the Defense Services says. That is why if you study their laws you will see that martial law means no law at all [preceding seven words in English]. No one—no person, no organization, no country—can oppose this. It must be understood that no legal action can be taken against us for what we did. We must also be aware that we are a member of the United Nations. I would like to clearly state that we will not pay any attention to allegations made by foreign media broadcasts, and the so-called democratic newspapers. [passage omitted]

Comrades: When international situations are analyzed, I sympathetically see that various countries in the world are somehow faced with difficulties. Various countries should try to solve their own problems peacefully through their own countrymen, and I wish them every success in their endeavors for the stability of their economic and social concerns. I would like to remind you not to forget the most important things in this world—that is, food, clothing, and life. I realize that some superpowers lack consideration for other countries, big or small. They should refrain from unfriendly acts, such as directly or indirectly interfering with other countries' internal affairs, and the use of coercion and influence.

Various countries and races of people that belong to the global family should help each other with love, consideration, and goodwill. One should not rejoice in another's misfortunes. They should know they ought not to take advantage of one's difficulty to create more difficulties and to cause the disintegration of the country through bloodshed. In reality, it will be beneficial to a rich country only if there is peace in the world. The developing and poor countries are the customers of the rich and developed countries. There must be stability among the the countries that are their economic partners. World trade will be uniformly developed with an increase in the momentum of economic development. Now is the time when there is a need for various countries, no matter how rich or poor, to live in unity, to render assistance—those in front should help those that are lagging behind—for the stability and development of various countries of the world.

Our country will not engage in any wrongdoing, regardless of whoever else does. We will practice good neighborliness with goodwill, and perform fair activities bilaterally beneficial to our various neighbors. We do not desire the destruction of our neighboring countries. We will strictly adhere to worldly and moral duties, including peaceful coexistence and respect for each country's sovereignty. We hope and believe that various countries in return will respond with bilateral relations of goodwill. They should know better, that it is not right to create trouble, especially with neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Public services personnel, including Defense Services personnel, should stay completely away from political parties. For those who have betrayed their country, they will find their own way to go. Some have already gone. To give a small example of the correctness of the correlation of man and his environment [the philosophy of the defunct Burma Socialist Program Party], human beings inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, while trees consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. This is the simplest proof.

Comrades: Nurture the anticolonialist and antifascist spirit like our forefathers, warriors, and brother soldiers. Defend the country selflessly. Try to nurture in high esteem, patriotism and love for your country. Try to totally crush all internal and external threats bravely. When the time comes, work together with the people for the emergence of a constitution, which is a national cause. Try to nurture the 10 strengths [reference unknown]—which every person in the Defense Services should possess—with perseverance, endurance, and bravery, and perform your duties of defending the state and independence courageously. Since laws are written by ordinary people, try to study and understand them. With this note, I conclude my speech.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Concern Over Recent Cambodian Clashes Expressed

BK3103095092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0850 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 31 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has expressed concern over recent clashes between Phnom Penh Government forces and Khmer Rouge fighters in Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the fighting should not have occurred as it could shatter the peace process and jeopardise United Nations efforts to enforce a ceasefire.

"Malaysia hopes that there will be no more clashes once personnel of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) are fully deployed," he told reporters after presenting a cheque for US $38,842 to the Palestinian ambassador to Malaysia, Ahmad al-Farra, at Foreign Ministry here.

The money was raised from the public for the Palestinian fund.

Commenting on reports that the clashes in northern Cambodia might spread to other areas, Abdullah said Malaysian soldiers serving under UNTAC had stayed clear of the fighting.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Supreme National Council overseeing Cambodia pending the holding of UN-supervised elections, was reported to have said: "We are facing a really serious situation."

Abdullah said the Malaysians were deployed there not to fight with anyone but to play a peacekeeping role to ensure a smooth implementation of the peace process.

He said the Cambodian Government had praised Malaysia for being the first country to send soldiers under the UN colors.

"This proves that we have not only kept to our pledge to participate in UNTAC but also demonstrates our support for the Cambodians' struggle to restore peace and redevelop their country," he added.

Abdullah said to solve the problem of correspondence faced by Malaysian soldiers in Cambodia, the Foreign Ministry would serve as a channel for delivery of their letters.

Letters addressed to the Malaysian soldiers can be sent to Defence Ministry to be forwarded to the Foreign Ministry, and subsequently the Malaysian Mission in Phnom Penh.

The reverse process would take place in the case of letters sent by the soldiers, he said.

"Letters may arrive late because of this process," he said.

Minister Reiterates Support for PLO Struggle

BK3103095692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0856 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 31 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will continue to support efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to bring peace to West Asia, and would provide assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said Malaysia hoped that the PLO efforts would result in peace in West Asia.

"The assistance given from time to time to poor Palestinians and those who faced a shortage of food was a symbolic gesture of Malaysia's support for the PLO," he told reporters after presenting a cheque for US $38,842 collected for the Palestine fund to the Palestine ambassador to Malaysia, Ahmad al-Farra, at Wisma Putra [Foreign Ministry] here.

Abdullah said the donation given today was to help meet the food needs of the deprived Palestinians, as was made known by Palestine Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi during his visit to Malaysia last month.

Abdullah said the government agreed to give assistance of US $100,000 to the Myanmar [Burmese] Rohingya Muslims, and US $50,000 to the earthquake victims in Turkey. The assistance would be handed over through the Malaysian Red Crescent Society soon, he said.

UMNO Youth Want Two Libyans Tried in FRG

BK2403043092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0414 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The youth wing of UMNO [United Malays National Organization], the major partner in Malaysia's ruling National Front party Monday suggested that the two Libyans sought by the United States, Britain, and France to face trial for the alleged bombing of two aircraft in 1988 and 1989 be held in a third country.

Its deputy head, Senator Mohamad Nazri Abdul Aziz, suggested that the trial be held in Germany [FRG].

"UMNO youth feel that by having the trial in a third country, allegations of unfairness by Libya and the other three countries involved can be avoided," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after leading an UMNO youth delegation to meet two senior American Embassy officers here to present UMNO youth's views on Resolution 731 passed by the United Nations (UN) Security Council on Libya.

The Jan. 22 resolution urged Libya to cooperate in investigations into the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988 and the bombing of a French UTA airliner in Niger in 1989.

A total of 270 people were killed in the Pan Am bombing, while the UTA bombing claimed 170 lives.

The United States, Britain, and France alleged that two Libyan nationals were involved in both bombings and called on Libya to surrender the men to them for trial.

Minister Reveals Warship Purchase Deal With UK

BK3103043492 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 29 Mar 92 p 11

[By Juhaidi Yean Abdullah]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sat.—Malaysia has concluded the deal to purchase two British warships for the Royal Malaysian Navy, Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said he would announce details of the contract with GEC-Marconi, the prime contractor of the two corvettes, next week.

"An agreement on the deal is expected to be signed soon. The agreement covers not just the ships but weapons and equipment as well," he told the NEW SUNDAY TIMES.

The signing of the agreement would bring to a close more than two years of negotiations.

Negotiations on the technical aspects of the corvettes were concluded in November last year.

Talks on the financial aspects ended in January this year. The contract was won by Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd which is part of GEC. The deal comes under the 1988 Britain-Malaysia Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence procurements.

The construction and delivery of the corvettes are expected to take 40 to 45 months.

The vessels, costing about [Malaysian] $1 billion, would be the most formidable in the ASEAN region as they are expected to be equipped with British Aerospace Vertical Launch Seawolf and Aerospatiale MM40 Exocet missiles, German MTU engines, and GEC radars, command and control systems.

However, Secretary General Datuk Nasruddin Bahari said more time would be needed to conclude negotiations for the type of missiles to be fitted on the corvettes as they were not under the MoU.

"A decision to procure the missile systems through open or restricted tenders will be made next month," he said, adding that navy experts had made their recommendations on technical aspects of the systems to the Government.

He said although BAe [British Aerospace] and Aerospatiale have been rumoured to have secured the missile contracts for the corvettes, there had been strong bids by American and other French manufacturers.

"McDonnell Douglas of United States is offering us their harpoon missiles, while Matra of France is pushing for the Mistral."

The Harpoon is an antiship missile with a range of more than 90km while the Mistral is an infra-red guided missile with a top speed of March 2.5.

Naruddin hoped that negotiations for the purchase of the missiles, which would be handled by the Treasury, would not be bogged down by unnnecessary delays.

"We want to speed up the process."

However, he said, the speed at which the negotiations could be concluded would depend on factors like the price of the corvettes.

Singapore

RSA Foreign Minister Expects Full Ties Soon

BK2703114892 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Mar 92 p 26

[Text] South Africa [RSA] will open a representative office in Singapore as soon as possible, Foreign Minister R.F. "Pik" Botha said yesterday.

Full diplomatic relations between the two countries would be established soon after the opening of the new office, he told a press conference.

Replying to questions after a day of talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, Mr Botha said his country was looking for space to set up the new office.

The office would enable businessmen in South Africa and Singapore to meet and discuss business deals.

The minister, who was on a private working visit, stressed that his country needed foreign investments to provide jobs for South Africans.

The South African economy grew by only 0.5 percent last year. Population growth in a country with nearly 40 million people was 2.7 percent and many S. Africans were unemployed.

"What we need, above all, is economic growth. Without economic growth, I don't think anyone will want to govern the country for long," he said.

Mr Botha arrived on Wednesday night with a 12-member delegation after visiting Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

His visit came almost two weeks after Mr Herman Hochstadt was appointed Singapore's special representative to South Africa.

In a statement yesterday, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that both Mr Botha and Mr Wong were confident that bilateral relations would be expanded.

The spokesman added that the victory scored by President F.W. de Klerk last week in a whites-only referendum on reforms would help the various parties in the country to agree on a new constitution or an interim government.

In an earlier statement, the ministry had announced that Singapore would lift a ban imposed on imports from South Africa in 1965 because of its apartheid policy.

But an arms embargo and a ban on loans to the South African Government would remain.

Mr Botha, who will fly home today, said yesterday that he did not press for the lifting of the arms embargo and the ban on loans during his talks with the three Singapore leaders.

The main aim of his trip was to expand economic ties with countries in the region and attract foreign investments to South Africa, he said.

His government will soon appoint a consulate-general in Thailand and has already started talks to normalise relations with Malaysia.

Referring to developments back home he said that the African National Congress should cut ties with the African Communist Party and help to reduce the black violence which discourages investors from going to South Africa.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Begins Offensive Against Khmer Rouge

BK3103063892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The State of Cambodia [SOC] faction announced yesterday that it was launching a large-scale offensive against the forces of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], setting back UN efforts for a cease-fire in Cambodia's embattled north.

The announcement of the Phnom Penh regime came on the eve of a UN operation to repatriate some 370,000 Khmer refugees from various camps in Thailand.

The repatriation of the first batch of more than 600 Khmer refugees was to start at 0930 this Monday, 30 March. These refugees were to be transported to Sisophon where they will be welcomed by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said: Cambodia is facing a very serious situation. He said: Thousands of new displaced persons have fled their villages as the war is continuing. He said that he might cancel his visits to China and North Korea next week if the fighting continued.

Previously, the SOC faction and the PDK have accused each other of starting the recent fighting by trying to seize more territory before full deployment of the UN peacekeeping forces.

Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, said that recent fighting had begun to spread. He condemned it as a violation of the Paris peace accord signed on 23 October last year. He said: The contention that a cease-fire is not in effect until the deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia is not tenable.

Generals Meet; Kompong Thom Fighting Continues

BK3003154292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 30 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Sisophon, Cambodia, March 30 (AFP)—Cambodian generals from four factions held crucial negotiations for peace in central Cambodia on Monday as Phnom Penh Government forces announced an offensive to retake a strategic road from the control of the Khmer Rouge.

The generals under United Nations supervision met in the city of Kompong Thom, the provincial capital where fighting has been reported intermittently since January, UN peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi said.

The outcome of that meeting—held 250 kilometers (155 miles) from here —was not immediately known but Akashi said he was optimistic that a halt to the fighting could be negotiated this week.

At the same time, at a ceremony welcoming the return of Cambodian refugees from Thailand, Phnom Penh Defense Minister Tie Banh said his army was forced to attack the Khmer Rouge.

Any such action is in violation of the Paris peace accords signed in October to end the Cambodian civil war.

The offensive is aimed at retaking from Khmer Rouge forces National Route 12, which leads from Kompong Thom to the Phnom Penh Government-controlled northern city of Preah Vihear.

Portions of the road have been captured by the Khmer Rouge since March 10, Tie Banh said.

"There is a necessity for the (Phnom Penh Government) to re-establish normal links between Phnom Penh, Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear, so they (government troops) have taken some measures," the defense minister said, with his answers translated by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"It is not an offensive, but he (Tie Banh) has to take measures, strong measures, in order to ... clear the way from the province of Kompong Thom to Preah Vihear," the prince said.

But Khmer Rouge Ambassador Chan Youran, who also attended the refugee ceremony, said the fighting was the fault of Phnom Penh forces.

"Fighting is going on every day," he told AFP. "Phnom Penh forces and Vietnamese forces are attacking."

Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong defended the attack, saying the fighting was "not too strong.

"The Khmer Rouge are trying to get more and more land," he said. "We cannot stand by. We cannot stay with our hands tied."

Generals from the four factions have been meeting in Phnom Penh since the UN advance mission here set up in November.

The United Nations has been trying to get generals meeting in Cambodia's troubled provinces, but so far Khmer Rouge commanders have not gone to Kompong Thom.

Their meeting there today was seen by diplomats as an important step in the negotiations for peace.

Son Sen Calls For Better Security for Officers

BK3103021292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] On 29 March, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, sent a message to H.E. General John Sanderson, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, proposing guidelines on ensuring security for military officers of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] within the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] in Kompong Thom. The message says:

As decided at the MMWG meeting in Phnom Penh, General (Men Ran) and General (Chu Chin) of the NADK traveled to Kompong Thom on 30 March 1992 to work with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and all Cambodian parties as liaison military officers within the MMWG in Kompong Thom. Due to the special situation in Kompong Thom, Your Excellency will certainly agree with me that careful attention should be paid to the security of our officers. I would like to propose that Your Excellency provide guidance to UNTAC liaison military officers in Kompong Thom on this issue and that appropriate measures be taken.

Peace Talks Make 'Headway' in Kompong Thom

BK3103080292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 31 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, March 31 (AFP)—The United Nations plucked Khmer Rouge generals out of the jungle for crucial peace talks that, while inconclusive, made strong headway into stopping the fighting in central Cambodia, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

Generals from the four Cambodian factions—who formally ended their civil war last year but are still fighting in the province of Kompong Thom—met in the provincial capital Monday to negotiate a truce under U.N. supervision.

The fighting, occurring intermittently since January, is in violation of the peace accords signed in October.

"Now we still have some problems to have a ceasefire and a withdrawal (of forces to neutral positions) like we want," said Brigadier General Michel Loridon, who presided over the talks.

"But we are on the way to getting good results in Kompong Thom," he said, adding that all sides were "quite cooperative (and) very frank."

The meeting marked the first time Khmer Rouge generals have ever been invited to the Phnom Penh-controlled city of Kompong Thom since their removal from power in 1979, although Khmer Rouge forces have been battling for control in the area ever since.

Two generals walked out of the jungle about 30 kilometers (19 miles) northwest of the city and into a United Nations helicopter that arranged to transport them, Loridon said.

In what had appeared to be a blow to the peace plan, Phnom Penh Government Defense Minister Tie Banh had said Monday that his forces were "taking strong measures" to re-establish control of National Route 12, from Kompong Thom to Preah Vihear.

Portions of the road were captured by the Khmer Rouge on March 10, Tie Banh said.

But diplomatic sources said Phnom Penh had now re-established control of the road after meeting little resistance, and that as a result the United Nations was close to an agreement on stopping the fighting.

"We told them not to fight (and) the fighting is decreasing," Loridon said.

Having the four factions meeting in Kompong Thom is part of a larger U.N. plan to set up small military working groups to deal with ceasefire violations and the upcoming demobilization and cantonment of forces.

While the committees have been meeting in Pailin, Siem Reap and other provincial trouble spots, Khmer Rouge officials had refused to send their generals to Kompong Thom until Monday.

The meeting itself was an important step forward in the peace process, diplomats said. [passage omitted]

UN Force Commander on Kompong Thom Fighting

BK3103105992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0600 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Interview with commander of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) peacekeeping forces General John Sanderson by correspondent David Pembroke on 31 March, from the "International Report" program; place not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] There have been some reassuring words today from the Australian general commanding the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia where fighting has taken some of the spotlight from the massive resettlement of refugees from camps in Thailand. General John Sanderson has said he is confident that fighting in the Kompong Thom area in central Cambodia will be under control in the next couple of days. Gen Sanderson says Khmer Rouge guerrillas operating in the area have come out of the jungle and are cooperating with the United Nations. David Pembroke asked Gen Sanderson if the cease-fire was holding apart from the Kompong Thom area.

[Sanderson] Across the countryside we have a cease-fire in place. Of course, everybody would be aware of the Kompong Thom situation, which really is Cambodia in a microcosm. It is where all the forces of all four factions are mixed up and it has always been a place where there has been some fighting toward the end of the dry season.

[Pembroke] And what are you doing to try to bring that under control?

[Sanderson] Well, at the moment we have managed to establish a full team of liaison officers from all four factions in Kompong Thom. That happened yesterday for the first time when we pulled a couple of NADK [National Army of Democratic Kampuchea]—that's Khmer Rouge officers—from the forest and established a mixed military working group in the Kompong Thom area.

[Pembroke] And just exactly what will that be doing?

[Sanderson] Well, they started yesterday negotiating the details of the separation of forces in the Kompong Thom area.

[Pembroke] So you would expect that in the next week or two weeks that they may be able to bring some resolution to the Kompong Thom problem?

[Sanderson] I hope it will take less than that.

[Pembroke] A matter of days?

[Sanderson] A matter of days, yes. That is what I am looking for.

[Pembroke] Just how bad has the fighting been in that area?

[Sanderson] It has been fairly severe. One of the things that has been going on has been fairly indiscriminate artillery firing which has had an effect on the civilian population. So when I say severe, it has been bad for the civilian population. It has been forcing them out of their villages and they have taken some casualties as well. The two smaller factions—KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] and ANKI [National Army of Independent Kampuchea]—of course, have just simply been trying to get out of the area. They don't want to be involved in the fighting. They are committed to the cease-fire and demobilization process.

[Pembroke] So if you are successful and the UN force is successful in bringing a resolution to this indiscriminate fighting in the next couple of days, how would you then sum up what level of fighting would be going on throughout Cambodia, or would that essentially mean the end of it?

[Sanderson] Well, that would mean, to all intents and purposes, a cease-fire. I can't say that there won't be some small outbreaks in various places—but for a number of reasons, one of which is that there are some bandit elements in the countryside as well. But they are small in number and they are a problem for the police in the fullness of time. So it really is the Kompong Thom problem, and I think once we get more UN troops into the country we will be able to take any misunderstandings out of any other areas in the countryside.

[Pembroke] The next lot of UN troops due to arrive in Cambodia are the 500 Australian troops. What sort of atmosphere will they be entering when they do come to Cambodia?

[Sanderson] They will be coming into Cambodia through Phnom Penh and they will be moved into the countryside as we have established the conditions for the deployment of other UN elements into the countryside. So, for example, if I set up a sector headquarters in the eastern provinces with an infantry battalion, I would need to put some communications elements with them to connect them to the headquarters. So they are going to be supporting the whole UN deployment as it occurs throughout the country.

[Pembroke] How important is it that these Australian troops arrive, and arrive on time?

[Sanderson] They are a vital element of the whole organization. I must say, I would like Australians to know just what a terrific job the young Australians have done up here so far. They have made a tremendous contribution to the nation's reputation and the defense forces' reputation.

[Pembroke] You would be aware that there is some concern that they are entering a very volatile situation. Are you able to put those concerns at ease?

[Sanderson] Well, I am aware of the debate that has been going on in Australia and I don't want to get involved in it. I think I am on record as saying that I am not going to put people into the countryside unless we have got a completely negotiated arrangement in those areas where we are going to put them.

UNTAC To Stress Human Rights, Basic Freedom

BK3103074892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general in Cambodia, in a letter addressed to H.E. Son Sann, has specified that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] will pay great attention to human rights and basic freedom in Cambodia.

In a message dated 19 March 1992, H.E. Akashi informed H.E. Son Sann that he has disseminated a communique on human rights and basic freedom, which is the most important issue facing the special representative of the UN secretary general and UNTAC.

In the communique enclosed with the letter, H.E. Akashi said that human rights and basic freedom affect elections in Cambodia. Violations of human rights and basic freedom, in particular attacks against any individual for political reasons, should be prevented. If necessary, violators should also be punished. This is the first thing UNTAC has to do.

Son Sen Asks For UNTAC Troops in Phnom Penh

BK3103010292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] On 27 March, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, sent a message to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general in Cambodia, on measures to protect human rights in Cambodia. The message says in essence:

The Party of Democratic Kampuchea fully assists every clause of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia, particularly the ones dealing with human rights. On this issue, we support the lofty and clear-sighted proposal made by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, at the SNC meeting on 16 March 1992, at which Your Excellency was present, calling on the SNC chairman and the 11 SNC members to sign a resolution and include it into the agreement dealing with human rights.

Furthermore, as a concrete measure which could help ensure security and create a political atmosphere in Phnom Penh, which is the headquarters of the SNC and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], we propose the deployment of an UNTAC force of sufficient strength in Phnom Penh.

UN Preparing To Deploy Forces in Countryside

BK2703170092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1011 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh (OANA/ANTARA)—United Nations military commanders in Cambodia are preparing to deploy the first UN peacekeeping troops, including those from Indonesia, to the countryside, following a tentative ceasefire in the central province of Kompong Thom Thursday.

"It seems as if things are quiet in Kompong Thom today," UN Commander Major General John Sanderson said Thursday night.

I have no reports of disturbances there. It is important that we maintain the ceasefire.

Sanderson said if both sides now withdraw from the battlefield and reposition their troops, he will send a contingent of Indonesian peacekeepers to Kompong Thom.

Fighting between government and Khmer Rouge forces in Kompong Thom since mid-January has forced more than 20,000 villagers to evacuate. Both sides agreed last Saturday to a ceasefire, but fighting continued, and on Wednesday Sanderson described the scene as very serious.

However, 24 hours later, after his first meeting with Khmer Rouge military leader Son Sen in Phnom Penh, Sanderson was cautiously optimistic that a new ceasefire would be adhered to, and he could begin the mammoth task of deploying the UN's 16,000 peacekeepers.

He said the crunch would come at the next military meeting of the warring factions in Phnom Penh Friday.

"I'll be looking for the factions to agree to proposals for the separation of forces in those area," said Sanderson, [word indistinct] commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

If that eventuates—and remember I've put this proposal to them some time ago—I've told them to be prepared to put UN troops in to help monitor and verify that agreement.

That will happen very quickly once I get the agreement, and I might get that tomorrow (Friday). But I can't put troops in there until it is quite clear where everyone is and what they are prepared to do, the UN commander said.

The first of the UN's 16,000 peacekeeping troops began arriving in Cambodia in early March, although an advance mission of 300 had been in country since November.

A battalion of Malaysian peacekeepers Thursday became the latest to join the UN military buildup in Cambodia.

The 800 troops crossed into northern Cambodia from Thailand, and will begin work Monday escorting convoys of refugees [words indistinct]

The repatriation of the 375,000 refugees is expected to take up to a year. The majority will be resettled in the northwest of the country from where most were displaced by the 13-year civil war.

In addition, the government has to resettle 150,000 internal refugees before the UN-supervised elections, scheduled for April next year.

Malaysian Troopers Deployed in Northwest

BK2803040892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0323 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Battambang (Cambodia), March 28 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Soldiers of the Malaysian battalion (MALBATT) have been deployed to refugee reception centres north of here as full deployment of the United Nations military force got underway in western Cambodia, Contingent Commander Kol. [Colonel] Arshad Mohamad Raji said Friday.

One company each had been sent to reception centres at Toul Mkak and O Ta Ki, between 20 and 30 km from here, and Sisophon 69 km north of here and about 50 km from the Thai border.

Another company of about 100 troops will be deployed to neighbouring Siem Reap province, known for its Angkor temple ruins, in a few days time, he told Malaysian reporters visiting the contingent headquarters here.

The rangers were among the first UN battalions to arrive to serve in the 15,900-strong military component of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) whose full scale deployment was expected in May before the wet season starts.

The three-day airlift of about 650 men, MALBATTs' main body, ends Saturday.

A 47-member advance party, including the contingent commander arrived on March 15 to prepare the groundwork for the arrival and deployment of the battalion.

Kol. Arshad said the troops were being armed on latest orders received from the UN force commander in Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh Said To Oppose UN Force Deployment

BK3103021892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Mar 92

["Vietnam hastily orders Hor Namhong to issue statements in order to prevent the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties from being deployed in Kompong Thom and at checkpoints along Cambodia's eastern border"]

[Text] On 29 March, the Hanoi Vietnamese ordered Hor Namhong to openly announce that the Phnom Penh side will send more troops to Kompong Thom to continue attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces on the Kompong Thom battlefield. This announcement is made at a time when Vietnam is bringing troops and ammunition from the 7th Military Region through Snuol and Krek to launch offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces in Kompong Thom.

This is a trick of the Hanoi Vietnamese to oppose the deployment of UN forces and the four Cambodian parties along Cambodia's eastern border and to counter the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]'s proposal calling for a cease-fire on the spot and for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and those of all Cambodian parties to their original bases except those units which are stationed in Kompong Thom.

Thus, Hor Namhong's statement further exposes more clearly to national and international opinion the permission to allow the Vietnamese aggressors to continue their aggression and occupation in Cambodia and to continue massacring the Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces continue to firmly stand on the 23 October Paris agreement and will continue to do everything until the Paris agreement is correctly implemented, particularly until there is a control of the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia so that Cambodia has genuine peace with independence.

UN's Prestige Linked to Accord Implementation

BK2803032492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Mar 92

["Article": "Correct or Incorrect Implementation of the Paris Agreement Directly Affects the United Nations' Honor"]

[Text] Since 23 October people the world over have paid close attention to the process of implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia. People generally agree that if the Paris agreement is implemented correctly in accordance with its essence, Cambodia will have regained peace with independence and that this agreement will become a warm symbol for countries in the region and the world of the United Nations, which is the leader in implementing this agreement.

However, to this day, according to national and foreign opinion following the issue of control of Vietnamese aggressors—the most important issue of the agreement—this point has not yet been implemented. People have asked this question: If the issue of Vietnam's aggression, which is the most important issue, is not solved, can the entire agreement be implemented? Can Cambodia have peace and independence? And can the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces, who have struggled against the Vietnamese aggressors for 13 years until achieving the 23 October Paris agreement, agree?

Thus, what would become of the confidence and trust of the Cambodian people, countries in the region, and small countries the world over, in the United Nations?

Son Sen Proposes Checkpoints for UN Monitoring

BK2903011492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Mar 92

["Message from His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General; and H.E. John Sanderson, commander of UN Peacekeeping Force in Cambodia"; dated 26 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26th March 1992

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia,

H.E. John Sanderson, commander of UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, Phnom Penh,

Your Excellencies: With the aim of taking part in the control of the withdrawal of all types of foreign forces from Cambodia and to prevent these forces from returning to Cambodia, I have the honor to make the final proposal on the following checkpoints:

A. Along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border and along the Cambodian coast:

1. Koh Kong town
2. Kompong Som
3. Sre Ambel road junction in Koh Kong Province
4. Kampot town
5. Lok
6. Phnum Den in Takeo Province
7. Prek Chrey in Kandal Province
8. K'am Samnar in Kandal Province
9. Bavet in Svay Rieng Province
10. Trapeang Rabang in Svay Rieng Province
11. Krek in Kompong Cham Province
12. Snuol in Kratie Province
13. Dak Dam in Mondolkiri Province
14. O Phlae along Sre Pok river and O Phlae in Mondolkiri Province
15. O Ya Dao on Route 19 in Ratanakiri Province

B. Along the Cambodian-Lao border:

1. O Svay in Stung Treng Province
2. Kompong Sralau in Stung Treng Province
3. The Cambodian-Thai-Lao three-border area

We have no objection concerning the checkpoints along the Cambodian-Thai border stated in the 18 February 1992 report of the UN secretary general. Moreover, I would like to further propose that representatives of the four Cambodian parties should also be permanently stationed at all UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] checkpoints to jointly take part in the control.

Please accept my high consideration.

[Signed] Son Sen, SNC member and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea

Hun Sen Calls on UN Secretary General

BK3003140592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] At 1600 on 27 March—0400 on 28 March Phnom Penh time—His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen and colleagues called on and had talks with H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, at his office at the UN Headquarters in New York City. H.E. Hun Sen discussed the results of the implementation of the Cambodian peace plan and the efforts of the State of Cambodia [SOC] in encouraging good cooperation among the members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and between the SNC and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], which is beginning its presence in Cambodia. He pointed out the need for a quick dispatch of UNTAC forces in order to come to the second stage of the cease-fire, a supervised cease-fire, and the preparations for the mustering of troops in designated areas before the arrival of the monsoon.

H.E. the head of the SOC Government went on to talk about the SOC proposal on the rehabilitation of the troops from all factions that are to be assembled and demobilized and their vocational training so as to enable them to return to civilian lives that are useful to society.

H.E. Ghali said he understood the SOC's concerns over the success of the Cambodian peace plan. He also deeply thanked H.E. Hun Sen for conducting a mission to various countries to persuade their governments to release funds for the United Nations in order to accelerate the successful implementation of this first-ever large-scale UN operation. H.E. Ghali gave assurances that he intended to implement the calendar of the peace plan and organize general elections in Cambodia as scheduled. He also informed the SOC side that he himself would make every effort to fulfill the same mission in the interests of both the United Nations and the Cambodian people. H.E. Ghali plans to visit Cambodia in April.

Hun Sen To Brief French Officials 29-31 Mar

BK2803050492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0408 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 28—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is to visit Paris from Sunday to Tuesday to brief French officials on the situation in his Southeast Asian nation since a peace agreement was signed in Paris last October, the Foreign Ministry was quoted by AFP as saying in Paris Friday.

It is the first visit by a senior Cambodian official since the agreement, spokesman Maurice Gourdault-Montagne said.

French and Cambodian officials will also review progress in deploying United Nations peacekeeping troops in Cambodia as well as French aid for rebuilding Cambodia.

Paris gave Cambodia in 1991 a grant of 20 million francs (3.6 million dollars) as well as cultural aid of 34 million francs (six million dollars).

"The French effort in aid to rebuild Cambodia will be at least equal to what has already been done," Gourdault-Montagne said.

Hun Sen is to meet in Paris with Prime Minister Edith Cresson, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Defense Minister Pierre Joxe and Economics Minister Pierre Beregovoy.

He will be coming from the United States where he has asked for funds to be made available for the U.N. peacekeeping effort.

SRV Said Sending More Materiel to Kompong Thom

BK3103031492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] On 28 March, the Vietnamese aggressors brought five truckloads of 122-mm and K-58 artillery shells and B-40 rockets from Vietnam's 7th Military Region in Tay Ninh along Route 22 and Route 7 in Krek, across the river at Tonle Bet, and through Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom towns to their troops to continue attacking the resistance forces in violation of the agreement.

Reports also say that the Vietnamese aggressors are frantically bringing ammunition and all kinds of war materiel to their forces to continue attacking the resistance forces to seize liberated zones. The Vietnamese aggressors bring this war materiel along Route 6 across Kompong Thom town and from Stung Treng along Thalabarivat road to attack the resistance forces from behind. Large numbers of Vietnamese troops have been gathered to attack the national resistance forces in Kompong Thom.

People in Kompong Thom, particularly those in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, are furious with the violation of the agreement by the Vietnamese aggressors. They have again and again demanded the urgent deployment of UN forces and the four Cambodian parties at strategic points in eastern Cambodia. Furthermore, the people have demanded that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Cambodian Supreme National Council check and ensure that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that the four Cambodia parties' armed forces are dissolved in accordance with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

SRV Troops Brought to Stung Treng

BK3003012692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] On 26 March, the Vietnamese aggressors brought six truckloads of their intervention troops, totaling over 200 soldiers, to Cambodia. These troops were brought in along Route 19 across Andong Pich in Ratanakiri Province to the south of Stung Treng provincial seat between O Pong Moan and (Koah Sampeay) where the Vietnamese aggressors stockpiled many tonnes of all types of ammunition on 22 March.

Reports also say that on 27 March, these Vietnamese intervention troops crossed the river to the west to attack the resistance forces from behind on Route 12 and in Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts [Kompong Thom Province]. The reports also say these intervention troops wear Cambodian soldiers' uniforms.

This is a constant effort to bring Vietnamese aggressor forces to attack the Cambodian national resistance forces and to continue massacring the Cambodian people. The Vietnamese aggressors bring in troops to attack the resistance forces and kill people anytime they like because there is no one to control them. People in Kompong Thom Province, particularly those in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, are furious with this violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement by the Vietnamese aggressors.

The people insistently demand that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the Cambodian Supreme National Council put out the fire of war in Cambodia most quickly. Concretely, Vietnamese aggressor forces should be checked and ensured that they are all withdrawn from Cambodia. Furthermore, the people ask that UNTAC and the four Cambodian parties be urgently deployed at checkpoints along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border to put an end to the flow of Vietnamese aggressor forces, ammunition, and war materiel to massacre the Cambodian people and continue the war of aggression in Cambodia.

Vietnamese Troops Brought to Koh Kong

BK2803020292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] On the night of 19 March, four Vietnamese fishing boats brought another 300 Vietnamese soldiers to Thmar Sar District seat in Koh Kong Province. One-third of these Vietnamese soldiers are stationed in Thmar Sar district town to put down unrest by our people against the Vietnamese aggressors to demand the return of plundered land; the remaining two thirds were sent to launch offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces in liberated zones in Koh Kong Province.

This is new evidence clearly showing that Vietnam still refuses to implement the 23 October Paris agreement. This is why the people in Koh Kong Province again and again demand that the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties set up checkpoints along sea routes as well to prevent Vietnam from bringing reinforcement forces to Koh Kong and to prevent Vietnam from felling tress in the province and them to Vietnam.

Vietnamese Brought To Settle in Kandal

BK2803023092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] According to confirmed reports from Kandal Province, Vietnam has brought in a vast number of Vietnamese nationals to settle in areas from (Prek Chhlong) and Prek Toch along the Basak River down to the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. The reports say that these Vietnamese aggressors and expansionists have set up entirely Vietnamese authorities in villages, communes, and districts. Each household is armed. The majority of the Cambodian people have fled their villages to seek new areas further up the river. The small number of Cambodians in all villages and communes along the lower part of the Basak River have to live under Vietnamese authorities.

The people along the Basak River are demanding that UN forces and the four Cambodian parties be deployed quickly along the Basak River to ensure that these Vietnamese aggressor and expansionist forces are withdrawn from there.

Thousands Flee Shelling in Preah Vihear

BK2803020092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] From 20 to 26 March, the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side daily fired hundreds of artillery shells and multiple rockets on our people's villages along Route 12—(Andaeuk), (Robieng), (Depo), and (O Pou) villages in Rovieng District, Preah Vihear Province—killing or wounding many of our people and destroying hundreds of houses; over 5,000 of our people were forced to flee.

This is a serious violation of the 23 October Paris agreement and war convention. Our people along Route 12 are furious with the criminal act of the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side against the people and demand that the United Nations and the Supreme National Council investigate this criminal act of the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side to conform with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

Sihanouk Welcomes Refugees at Border Ceremony

BK3103011092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 92 pp 1,3

[Text] Si Sophon, Cambodia—Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk welcomed home the first group of Khmers from Thai border camps yesterday in a ceremony marking the start of a massive repatriation programme which is a step in the UN peace plan for Cambodia.

Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, accompanied by Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, wished the 527 Khmer returnees and their country a bright future at a farewell ceremony in Site II, after which a convoy of 14 buses and 7 trucks carrying the Khmers and their possessions travelled along Route 5 from Klong Luek to Si Sophon.

At the Klong Luek-Poi Pet border crossing, Thai officials lined the bridge to bid the Khmers goodbye, as the convoy headed for the Si Sophon reception centre where they will wait for a few days until being taken to the destination of their choice to rebuild their shattered lives.

Located on a piece of barren land, the reception centre was flooded with tens of thousands of local Khmer people who braved the sweltering heat for a close encounter with Prince Sihanouk.

The Prince's entourage from Phnom Penh included Princess Monique, Chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia Yasushi Akashi, Defence Minister Tie Banh and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong of the State of Cambodia.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), mandated to repatriate Khmers in Thai border camps, is hoping that the success story of this first movement will jump start the crucial element of the peace plan to finally bring home all 380,000 Khmers in time for the general election next May.

At present, the UN schedule foresees the return of about 4,000 Cambodians in the first part of April. There will be a break in the schedule during the Khmer New Year (April 10) which will also allow a review of progress.

Gen Suchinda, who travelled to the headquarters of the Thai battalion working in Si Sophon, also turned up at the reception centre where he met briefly with Prince Sihanouk and Mr Akashi.

The Prince urged the Cambodians not to be scared by the "small war" being fought between the Khmer Rouge and Government forces in the north-central province of Kompong Thom.

"Since the returnees have chosen where they wish to live, in peaceful and stable areas, I don't think they will be facing difficulties concerning clashes and military confrontations," the prince said.

"And I hope they won't be afraid by the worsening situation in very few parts of Cambodia."

Fighting broke out recently in Kompong Thom province where the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces are playing a cat and mouse game.

Asked by the prince to clarify the situation, Defence Minister Tie Banh said that on Highway 12 from Kompong Thom province where the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces are playing a cat and mouse game.

Asked by the prince to clarify the situation, Defence Minister Tie Banh said that on Highway 12 from Kompong Thom town to Phrea Vihear, there is "some form of small war" in which his forces were seeking to repel Khmer Rouge forces from the area. [preceding two sentences as published]

Gen Tie Banh said the Khmer Rouge forces should retreat to their previous positions.

Khmer Rouge Ambassador Chan Youran who was also present at yesterday's ceremony declined to give his side of the story, despite the Prince's request.

Prince Sihanouk said he hoped the situation in Kompong Thom will not discourage the Khmers in Thailand from returning home.

Hor Namhong Receives Former U.S. Envoy

BK2703113092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Mar (SPK)—Mr. Morton I. Abramowitz, former U.S. ambassador to Thailand and Turkey and head of the "Carnegie Endowment for International Peace" foundation, was received in Phnom Penh on 24 March by Mr. Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia [SOC] minister of foreign affairs. Mr. Morton I. Abramowitz is heading a delegation to find facts about the current situation in the SOC, the preparations for the disarming of the armed forces, and the cease-fire violations by the Khmer Rouge.

Indonesia

Netherlands Urged Not To 'Incite' Other Nations

BK3103022092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Indonesia hopes that the Netherlands will not incite other countries to stop providing aid to it following its rejection of Dutch aid. Speaking to reporters in Jakarta last night, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said that the Indonesian decision was partly attributed to the behavior of J.P. Pronk, Netherlands minister and concurrently chairman of the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia. According to Minister Arifin Siregar, the majority of Dutch officials are in fact sympathetic to Indonesia. Nevertheless, Indonesia hopes that trade and economic relations with the Netherlands will continue to proceed smoothly despite the rejection of the aid.

Aid Refusal Not To Affect Netherlands Trade

BK3003161292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Trade Minister Arifin Siregar has stressed that the Indonesian Government's decision not to accept any more economic aid from the Netherlands will not affect bilateral trade relations between the two countries. Trade relations betwen the two countries will be further upgraded and Rotterdam will be one of the gateway cities in Europe for Indonesian export commodities to the European region. Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said this after attending a fast-breaking session with newsmen in Jakarta this evening.

He also said an Indonesian promotional trading and distribution center would be officially opened on 24 April in Rotterdam.

Indonesia's export trade with the Netherlands last year amounted to $U.S.800 million while Indonesia's imports from that country amounted to $U.S.500 million.

The minister predicted brighter bilateral trade between Indonesia and the Netherlands in the future even though Indonesia made its decision not to accept any more economic aid from the country. Minister Arifin Siregar also stated that the Netherlands ranks as Indonesia's sixth [as heard] major trading partner having investments in the country, besides Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States.

Minister Orders Inventory of Dutch Aid Projects

BK2703150292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita has instructed all state enterprises under his jurisdiction to take inventory of Netherlands-financed development projects, which are currently under implementation as well as still on the drawing board. Minister Ginanjar made the remarks after he met with all first-echelon officials of the Department of Mining and Energy consisting of the department's secretary general, directors general, inspector general, expert staff members, and directors of state enterprises in Jakarta today.

The minister said details of all Netherlands-financed development projects must be submitted to the Office of the National Development Planning by early next week at the latest to ensure that necessary actions can be taken. He said the government has three options to continue these development projects, namely, other sources of development funds will be sought; the government itself will fully finance the projects; and the contractors of the projects will be replaced.

250 Dutch Experts To Leave by End of Apr

BK3103104092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 31 (AFP)—Indonesia has decided to order 250 Dutch experts working in the country on projects financed by The Netherlands to complete their work by April 23, a Dutch Embassy spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The 250 will not be forced to leave the country immediately, however, Valerie Sluyter said.

The order "does not mean they will take a plane the next day," she explained. There will be "some leniency. If they have personal problems such as school for their children or selling their car, the Indonesian authorities are ready to ease things, and give them the possibility of staying longer."

Sluyter added that "If another donor country wants to take over the financing of a project and would like to keep the Dutch expert on the project, then Indonesia will not object to that."

The Indonesian Government last week announced its intention of no longer accepting financial aid from The Netherlands, accusing the former colonial power of linking its assistance with unacceptable political conditions, particularly demands for improved human rights in Indonesia.

If all the experts and their families depart, it will mean the departure of up to 700 people, or almost one-quarter of the 2,900 Dutch citizens registered in Indonesia at the end of 1991, Sluyter said.

Around 75 teams of Dutch experts, many of them employed by engineering advisory companies or development consultants, are working on projects in Indonesia financed by the Dutch Government.

Indonesia has also requested that the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia, the country's major Western aid donor consortium which has been chaired by the Netherlands since 1968, be replaced by another group chaired by the World Bank.

Burma's Impact on Regional Stability Criticized

BK2803135492 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Mar 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Myanmar's Problems"]

[Text] As far as most of the world is concerned, it seems that the problem of refugees fleeing Myanmar, formerly Burma, began in January, around the time the international news media began reporting the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Myanmarese Moslems, Rohingya, fleeing into Bangladesh. Just when the process actually started is not known, but by the end of last year some 300,000 Rohingyas were already reported to be living in cramped refugee camps at Cox Bazaar and other places near the Bangladesh- Myanmar border. The Rohingya refugees, who come from the western Myanmarese state of Arakan, have complained of persecution in their predominantly Buddhist homeland.

One 40-year-old refugee who was a farmer in his native Arakan state arrived at a makeshift camp near the border after a two-day trek over rugged hills and through dense forests. To interviewers, he recounted how Myanmarese troops stormed and looted his home and forced him and his family to flee on Mondya. Intelligence sources in Dhaka say Myanmar's military has conscripted 15,000 Moslems for use as human shields near the border with Bangladesh, where minor clashes are reported to have occurred

Similar stories abound in the refugee camps along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Myanmar's military junta on the other hands insists that recent troop movements along the border were aimed soley at putting down a Rohingya Moslem insurgency for autonomy from Yangon [Rangoon]. Ostensibly, it is for the same reason that Yangon is doing all it can to prevent the Rohingyas from returning to their homeland. From the practical point of view, perhaps what should give even more reason for concern than such accounts of human suffering and resistance is the pressure that the influx of Myanmarese refugees is putting on the economic and financial resources of neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Pakistan. Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees, for example, were reported to have left Bangladesh to find even safer refuge in Pakistan and the Middle East.

What the junta leaders in Yangon may well prove to have taken too lightly is the fact that other, perhaps less rational, factors must always be reckoned with in conditions where universal values are involved. It is for instance no coincidence that the first reactions to Yangon's handling of the Rohingya problem has come from Malaysia and Indonesia, two countries with predominantly Moslem populations. Malaysia's Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, in a televised broadcast on Sunday said the Malaysian government was deeply concerned over the attacks on Moslems in Myanmar.

In Jakarta, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Altas told a hearing at the House of Representatives (DPR) that Indonesia was calling on the government of Myanmar to "take the necessary steps to solve the problem regarding the Rohingya ethnic group and to deal with the fundamental questions that have led to the flow of refugees into neighbouring countries."

Perhaps more significantly, while noting that Indonesia preferred to take a "constructive engagement" stance towards Myanmar, and while reiterating the government's stand that the problems in Myanmar were basically Yangon's internal affairs, "the recent developments show that the situation inside Myanmar has carried over into some international dimensions and tends to have an adverse effect on the peace and stability in Southeast Asia."

It seems to us that self-isolation and total defiance of world opinion may finaly have led Yangon to not only lose touch with the realities that surround it, but to risk estranging those governments who have, for whatever reasons, so far shown it the greatest understanding. It would be beyond the scope of this brief discourse to argue over what may or may not be the best approach towards Myanmar. We feel, however, that it is probably time for ASEAN to take a fresh look into the question and work out a viable formula before the seemingly never-ending problems that beset Myanmar become a threat to regional stability.

Japan To Continue Sending Development Aid

BK2703095092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0741 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, Mar 27 (ANTARA)—The Japanese Government will continue providing aid to Indonesia in accordance with bilateral relations and international cooperation.

"Japan will not change its mind in providing economic aid to Indonesia," Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry's General Information Deputy Chairman Sadaaki Numata told ANTARA here Thursday.

His statement came following Indonesia's decision to reject Dutch aid, including those provided through the IGGI [Intergovernmantal Group on Indonesia], chaired by the Dutch Government.

A reason expressed by Indonesia for rejecting the aid is the Dutch Government's frequent actions of intimidating and threatening as well as linking its assistance to certain conditions unacceptable to a sovereign country.

"We're committed to help improve the economy and social welfare of Southeast Asia, and this effort includes providing aid to Indonesia," he said.

Asked about a proposal for a new forum called consultative forum of the World Bank to replace the IGGI, he disclosed that Japan will hold a consultative meeting with all concerned countries, including the United States, the Netherlands, the World Bank, and other international financial institutions.

"We hope we can negotiate this with those countries and international institutions," he noted.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry's spokesman pointed out that he could understand why the Indonesia-Netherlands bilateral relations were getting worse. The Dutch Government has always linked its aid to human rights and recently with the Dili incident.

But the Japanese Government had stated that it respected all the measures taken by the Indonesian Government to tackle consequences of the incident.

S. Nakajima, a Japanese businessman-cum-adviser, said: "I agree with the idea on the consultative forum, which means that aid to Indonesia will always be referred to the United Nations."

The senior adviser of the ASEAN centre said, however, that it should be discussed carefully in order not to harm Indonesia's interest.

Aceh Lecturers Sentenced for Separatist Acts

BK2803132592 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] JAKARTA (JP)—A lecturer of a state-run university in the predominantly Moslem province of Aceh was sentenced to a six- year prison term last Saturday [14

March] for his involvement in the separatist movement, known as the GPK (Security Disturbance Movement).

The ANTARA NEWS AGENCY reported from Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, that 47-year old Abdullah Husen was found guilty of attempting to establish a free (Islamic) Aceh, a breakaway country from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Presiding judge Darwenis said in his verdict that Husen, also a well-known tailor, had provided a place for other GPK members to hold clandestine meetings in 1990, all of which were aimed against the government.

"The defendant was well aware that the GPK's aim is to disrupt the government and national development as well as to create political instability in the country. This shows he is involved in subversion," Darwenis said.

Under existing law, anyone who is guilty of subversion may face the death penalty.

"As a lecturer, he should have provided a good example to his students and society but instead he involved himself in clandestine activities," the judge said, adding that Husen also had a picture of Hasan Tiro, GPK Aceh's leader who now resides abroad.

Aceh, Indonesia's northernmost province in Sumatra often called the "Verandah of Mecca, is the home of GPK rebels who have wanted to make the province a free and independent state since 1950s.

Thousands of troops have been sent to the province over the past few years to crush the separatist group known as the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (Aceh Free Movement). The number of rebels has dwindled since 1990, after the government promised amnesty to those who voluntarily gave themselves up.

Last Wednesday, a lecturer at the Islamic Institute in Banda Aceh was also sentenced to five years imprisonment on similar charges.

Philippines

Aquino: 'No Need' for Memorandum on U.S. Pullout

HK3103050692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] President Aquino yesterday said there was no need for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Philippines and the United States to cover the gradual withdrawal of American forces from Subic Naval base in one year.

The President was reacting to reports that the U.S. Government has requested her government for an MOU to cover such arrangement.

Ms Aquino said that the provisions of the Manglapus-Shultz agreement were already enough to cover the withdrawal process, including the definitions of movable and immovable items.

The 1988 agreement allows the U.S. to take out all movable items and equipment from the base in case no agreement extending the U.S. lease on Subic was reached. The Senate rejected a new base treaty between the two governments last September.

The Manglapus-Shultz agreement calls for a withdrawal committee which has been constituted on the Philippine side without, so far, a proper group being designated by the U.S. for their side," she said.

Also on the base issue, the President dismissed as plain speculations reports that she was about to name Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon as acting head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Malacanang sources also said that Alejandro Melchor, presidential adviser on the base conversion issue, would not be appointed as BCDA chief since he was like a "loose cannon" and was not a "team player."

"It is best to wait for the announcements of the appointments for the BCDA and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Malacanang had earlier rejected the appointment of Gordon as BCDA head as provided for under the law because of some legal technicalities which prohibits the dual appointments in government.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that Gordon must first relinquish his post as mayor if he wanted to be appointed as BCDA head.

Taiwan To Grant Loan for Industrial Project

HK3003023192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 28 Mar 92 p 17

[By Margie Quimpo-Espino]

[Text] The International Economic Cooperation Development Fund of Taiwan (IECDF) which has a portfolio of about $1 billion, will provide a soft loan to the government for the development of an industrial estate in the Philippines.

The estate will be developed by the state-owned National Development Co. and a Taiwanese agency to be nominated by the Taipei fund.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Tomas I. Alcantara yesterday said that the government has modified its earlier proposal limiting the site to either the Pavia estate in Iloilo or the Phividec Industrial Estate in Cagayan de Oro.

The government's new position, he said, would allow the development of such Taiwanese-funded industrial estate "anywhere in the Philippines except in the Calabarzon (or the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon area)."

Alcantara explained that the Calabarzon region is already "being fully served by the private sector."

"We believe that the government, be it the Philippines or other governments, should no longer establish development-oriented projects in these areas," he said. "We do not want to create further competition with the private sector."

Officials of the IECDF are coming to Manila during the second half of April to finalize the plans for the tie-up.

The IECDF will choose the agency that would provide equity participation in the industrial estate project.

The amount of concessional loan from the Taiwanese fund will still be negotiated by the government with the IECDF.

The IECDF is the official development assistance arm of the Taiwanese government that gets an annual budget from the island's legislature.

The Philippines made the proposal to the IECDF to finance an industrial estate in the country during the signing last month of the Taipei-Manila agreement on the promotion and protection of investments.

The industrial estate is expected to house a number of Taiwanese factories of Taipei investors who are planning to relocate their plants in the Philippines.

During the signing, officials of the IECDF expressed interest in financing several Philippine projects that could boost Taiwanese investments in the country.

Other than the industrial estate, the Philippines, through its trade officials, also urged the Taiwanese to finance the setting up of a Taiwan desk in Manila to be headed by an investment or industrial expert from Taipei.

The Taiwan desk's main role is to attract Taiwanese businessmen who wanted to relocate their factories.

Election Body Wants Private Armies Dismantled

HK3103040392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Mar 92 pp 1, 13

[By Lynda Jumilla and Dave Veridiano]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] yesterday gave the Philippine National Police [PNP] until April 30 to disarm and disband the remaining 78 private armies all over the country.

The poll body issued the order at a command conference with the PNP and the Armed Forces in Camp Crame to draw up the final security plan for the May 11 elections.

PNP Director General Cesar P. Nazareno told the commission that of the 142 private armies last year, 15 have been "neutralized" 45 "rendered inactive," and 14 found to be non-existent.

He said among those dismantled were that of the Perez clan of Nueva Ecija, the Degranos of Batangas, the Imperial, Nepomuceno and Ziga clans of Albay, the Alandos of Lanao del Norte, and eight other armed groups composed of civilian volunteer organizations and members of civil security units in Angeles City.

Nazareno said the remaining 78 have an estimated membership of 4,710 men, with at least 4,357 different types of firearms.

Before the command conference, Nazareno had ordered all provincial and regional police directors to dismantle the remaining armed groups by April 30 which was also the PNP's self-imposed deadline.

The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao yielded the most number of private armed groups, followed by the Bicol Region and Central Luzon.

The PNP also told the Comelec that the number of election-related violent incidents has gone down by 17 percent from that of previous polls.

At least 12 people have been reported killed in suspected election-related violence since the start of the election period last Jan. 12.

Commissioner Remedios Fernando attributed the decrease to a "sincere implementation of the gun ban" and the neutralization of private armies.

She said the PNP and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] expect even fewer election-related violence during the home-stretch of the campaign.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod expressed satisfaction with the PNP's election-related peacekeeping activities.

Also during the conference, police authorities disclosed that 302 towns all over the country have been tagged as probable election "hot spots."

A police intelligence report showed that among those considered hot spots were Ternate in Cavite, Maganoy in Maguindanao, and Candon in Ilocos Sur.

The three towns were placed on the watchlist after the killing of Ternate Mayor Octavio Velasco and his three companions last March 3, the ambush that killed Maganoy Vice Mayor Bantilan Paglala last Feb. 21, and the killing of a Lakas-NUCD [Epifanio de Los Santos Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] leader Ramon Calindas in Candon only last Sunday.

Of the 302 probable hot spots, 182 towns in 16 provinces were considered "critical areas" and the rest "sensitive spots."

In Ilocos Sur, meanwhile, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino gubernatorial candidate Luis Singson accused Lakas-NUCD standardbearer Fidel V. Ramos of using Calindas' killing "to boost candidacy."

Singson, who was pitted against Lakas-NUCD candidate Antonio Abaya, said Ramos was using the killing to justify the sending of military troops to Candon.

Candon police chief Benjamin Lusad said Calindas was active in counter-insurgency when he was still a Constabulary sergeant, raising the possibility he was killed by the NPA [New People's Army].

Or, Lusad added, Calindas who owned a beer house in Candon and was the provincial warden in 1987 may have been killed by "someone who had a personal grudge" against him.

Lusad said it was also possible that the killing was political, noting that Calindas was Abaya's ward leader.

Asked if he thought the killing of his ward leader was politically motivated, Abaya said, "of course."

Fely Calindas, Ramon's widow, said her husband had received death threats over the phone four times.

She described her husband as "a die-hard supporter of Ramos."

NPA Suspected in Killing of Ramos Supporter

HK3103025992 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 31 Mar 92 p 5

[By Fidel Asor Jr; italicized passage in Tagalog]

[Text] Candon, Ilocos Sur—Ramon Calindas, a Ramos follower who was shot last Sunday by an unidentified gunman, was active in the town's anti-insurgency campaign, raising the possibility that New People's Army (NPA) hitmen were responsible for the killing.

In an interview here, Senior Inspector Benjamin Lusad, Candon chief of police, admitted that Calindas had been assisting the local police in its insurgency campaign.

Lusad, however, did not rule out the possibility that the killing could be politically motivated.

It was learned that Calindas was a former military man who was discharged in 1984 for alleged involvement in a robbery.

His family, however, claimed that Calindas was acquitted of the crime later on.

Lusad said he was able to talk to Calindas minutes before he died of a gunshot wound from a locally made gun called "backshot."

He said Calindas told him that he did not recognize the assailant, who was in his 20s and wearing a pink-striped polo shirt.

This indicated, Lusad said, that the assailants did not come from the place. Calindas was a long-time resident of Candon.

Lusad also disclosed that Calindas was not a "leader" of Ramos but a mere follower of Lakas ng EDSA [Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue]-National Union of Christian Democrats [NUCD] mayoral bet Roland Itchon and gubernatorial candidate Antonio Abaya.

At present, the police could not yet establish the real motive behind the killing.

Three witnesses are now in the custody of the police.

Initial statements given by the witnesses to the police showed that Calinda's assailant had a lookout.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Roberto Calinisan, PNP [Philippine National Police] provincial commander, said there was no tension in the town despite the killing.

He said they expected arrests in the next few days.

Pressed for identities, Calinisan refused, saying this might affect their investigation.

Representative Luis "Chavit" Singson, who is running for governor under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats: LDP] banner, said politics had nothing to do with the killing.

"*They are just magnifying the incident. For sure it has no political color; however, they are still going to sensationalize and use it,*" Singson said.

The solon added that the Lakas-NUCD had no complete slate in the province, thus it would take advantage of the killing to gain political mileage.

Calinisan himself said the Singsons could not be involved in the killing.

He disclosed that all the candidate for local positions had vowed not to use violence in the coming elections.

Meanwhile, two retired generals might warned that the killing of a Lakas-NUCD campaign leader might "follow an unmistakable pattern to justify a military takeover of the province."

At the same time, Congressman Rodolfo Gutang and former Armed Forces chief General Rodolfo Biazon urged Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos to stop "blaming politics" for the killing in the absence of an apprehended suspect.

Speaking during a whistle stop of the LDP in Candon, Gutang and Biazon, both LDP senatorial candidates, said they "condemn the killing in the strongest possible terms" even as they urged the Philippine National Police "to get to the bottom of the case."

For his part, LDP presidential bet Ramon Mitra Jr called for vigilance in maintaining peace during the campaign period.

"It is important that we maintain peace until election day to attain a constitutional transition," Mitra said.

Warning of a sinister plot to subvert the elections, Mitra said any other arrangement that is undemocratic would be bad for the country.

Biazon and Gutang warned against people who are "capitalizing on this isolated incident" to solicit sympathy and votes."

"As a military man, Mr Ramos should be responsible enough to know that it requires investigation before anybody can put a blame on anybody," said Gutang, a retired Constabulary general turned congressman.

Gutang, a former Constabulary general and "father" of the PNP Law, was reacting to statements issued by Ramos blaming "unscrupulous politicians who would not hesitate to use guns and goons" for the killing Sunday of Calindas. Calindas was a campaign leader of Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Yeng Abaya.

Police records showed that Calindas was a former soldier discharged in 1984 for his involvement in a robbery case. He was also active in the government's counterinsurgency drive in the province.

"Nobody knows anything except that the victim died during this campaign period. But who knows if it was a personal yindication? The possibilities are endless," Gutang said.

Biazon, on the other hand, cited the military's reaction to the March 3 killing of Ternate, Cavite Mayor Octabio Velasco.

"The sending of troops to Cavite only furthered fear and terror," Biazon said. He noted that both Cavite and Ilocos Sur were known LDP bailiwicks where administration bets face "sure defeat."

The candidates pointed out that in the senatorial elections of 1987, the province was categorized as a "hot spot" and the polls were postponed for a week after political intelligence reports said a local candidate supported by then senatorial bet Letty Ramos Shahani was facing defeat.

The postponement, however, did not help any to make Shahani's candidate win, Gutang said.

Also during the whistle stop, relectionist [word as published] Senator Jose Lina Jr called on the people of Candon to guard peace and not allow the burning of Ora Este to happen again.

Lina recalled that he was a spokesman of Operation Bantay [Operation Lookout] when Ora Este was burned in 1971 at the height of a bloody war for political control of Ilocos Sur between rival families. The burning was blamed on the Crisologos.

Thailand

Narong Issues Statement on Drug Charges

BK3103004192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Mar 92 p A6

["Unedited English-language statement by Narong Wongwan, leader of the Samakkhi Tham, released in Bangkok yesterday"]

[Text] 1. In response to the news report in THAI RAT newspaper today that the US has been monitoring my activities for 14 years, I found it quite perplexing that despite 14 long years of such monitoring, the US administration has not been able to charge me with any crime or wrong-doing. Once again, the US is making a flying accusation without going into any substance of the matter. I now begin to wonder if this reflects the manner in which the US will carry out its relations with Thailand in the future.

2. Should the US be resolutely convinced of my illegal activities following 14 years of monitoring, its appropriate action should have been to permit me to enter the US so the American authorities could arrest and prosecute me under US law. Instead, the US administration chose to prevent me from entering the country. My question is—if the US did not have an ulterior motive, what kind of logic is it operating under?

3. In view of the impregnable security surrounding the US Embassy in Bangkok, how could the information on this matter get into the hand of a newsman, if it was not intentionally leaked by someone inside the embassy. The only sense I can make of this leak is either the US wants to further discredit my reputation or it was trying to cover up its mistake.

4. Thailand and the US have worked closely together in the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. The two countries constantly exchange and share information on narcotics matters. The close cooperation has resulted in several arrests of Thai traffickers in the US.

Therefore, it is quite surprising that in my case where the US has done more than suggesting that I am guilty of the crime of trafficking the two top Thai officials whose agencies are directly involved in narcotics suppression have come out to defend my innocence. I beg of you to think about such a glaringly different set of information such as black is to white.

Further, I would like to add, drug trafficking is a highly serious offence: if the records show any slight hint of defence particularly the two officials whose records of honesty and integrity are impeccable. [paragraph as published]

5. I would like to make one important observation. For the last 14 years, except last year, I travelled to the US every year, sometimes several times a year, there was no hint of any problem whatsoever. The problem emerged only AFTER [previous word as published] I successfully set up the Sammakkhi Tham Party on the 20th of June 1991. Please note that my visa was suspended in July of 1991, one month after the formation of Sammakkhi Tham Party.

6. Lastly, since the public accusation of my involvement in drug trafficking, my family, my friends and myself have gone through great pains and humiliation. Many have told me this is a price far too high to pay for participating in politics. But I believe in my innocence. For my pride and my reputation, and for the sake of democratic process and the reputation of my country, I cannot run, and I will not hide.

I understand that the denial of my visa is the legal prerogative of the US and I am not going to comment on the justness of those provisions under which my case falls. However, it has to be pointed out that these provisions are very different from any other law because it allows the denial of access simply and solely on the basis of suspicion.

Please allow me to remind you that suspicion is by no means a confirmation of guilt. Suppose I suspected that the question about my visa was planted, my suspicion without further proof is not indicative that the reporter was indeed tipped to ask that question.

Sadly, in my case not many people recognize this distinction. They are of the view that if my visa was denied, I must be guilty.

Despite all these fine points, I realize that should the cloud of suspicion involving my activities is allowed to continue, the ensuing political confusions and their ramifications are far-reaching. With this in mind, I would like to make this statement.

When the US decided to revoke my visa, it must have had enough evidence in its hand to warrant its action. I therefore respectfully request the US to disclose such evidence to the Thai people immediately. And in view of the upcoming opening of the Parliament on April 2 which officially marks the commencement of the democratic process in Thailand, and as a token of respect for such process, I ask that such evidence be disclosed prior to such date.

If at such time, no substantiated evidence is forthcoming from the US, it is indicative that the US does not have such evidence and I shall consider the case closed. No flying and groundless allegations deserve any one's attention nor time.

It is about time that I am allowed to go forward with my life and my work. It is about time that the democratic process in Thailand forges ahead without disruptions from rumours and innuendoes.

By making the above request, I know I am putting my life and my future on the line. I would not have made the request unless I am absolutely sure of my innocence. I am not afraid of fighting a good fight, but I cannot fight a faceless enemy. Nobody can.

Prime Minister Defends Narong Against Allegations

BK3003131892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In connection with the United States forwarding information about Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan to the Thai Government, the information is similar to the information the Thai Government has, the difference being how the information is interpreted. In any event, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun continues to believe that Narong is innocent.

[Begin Anan recording] This issue has to do with U.S. law, which has the authority to grant or deny visas to applicants. The law states clearly that if the Immigration Office learns—that is, knows—or has sufficient reason to believe that a certain person has connections with this kind of business, that person's visa application will be denied. The scope of this writing is very broad, such as the clause on learning or having sufficient reason. I asked the U.S. side about this and was told that it had no knowledge or evidence, but it had certain of its own reasons. I asked them what the reasons were and was told that they could not elaborate because it was an official secret. I asked whether Thailand had the same information, and was told that Thailand did, but that there was a difference in interpretation of information by Thailand and the United States. This matter, therefore, has to do with the U.S. legal action.

Regarding Narong, he made a clear statement and a complete denial. I believe in his innocence. Therefore, the issue does not concern Narong, who regards himself as innocent. As long as there is no proof one way or the other, the Thai people must regard him innocent. [end recording]

Asa on Narong's Possible Lawsuit Against U.S.

BK3103100192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin answered reporters' questions today about Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan's possible move to file a lawsuit against the United States, which has accused him of being involved in the narcotics trade.

The foreign minister said that if the accuser fails to produce substantial evidence, the accused can file a lawsuit against the accuser. In the past, there have been cases where people whose names were on the blacklist filed lawsuits against their accusers.

However, he said a country has the right to deny entry to a suspect. Thailand also used to deny entry to enemies.

Asa said that the United States has no intention of interfering in Thailand's internal affairs and that the U.S. action has not affected bilateral relations. The Samakkhi Tham Party leader's open letter to the U.S. President was not sent through the Thai Foreign Ministry's channels, for it was a personal matter. He personally believes that the United States should answer the letter in order to clarify the situation to all sides. If the allegation against Narong is true, the United States must produce evidence to verify it.

As far as what the Foreign Ministry can do now, Asa said that the ministry has requested justice from the United States for the Samakkhi Tham Party leader. The Foreign Ministry's permanent secretary has been assigned to closely follow up the matter. If the Samakkhi Tham Party leader becomes prime minister or a member of the cabinet, the ministry will then be able to intervene in the matter.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Narong Case

BK3003134592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek spoke to newsmen today about an open letter by Narong Wongwan to the U.S. President, saying that the letter was not sent through the Foreign Ministry channel and therefore the U.S. reply, if made, will not be made through the Foreign Ministry. In any event, if the reply is made through the Thai Embassy, the Foreign Ministry will inform the public as appropriate.

Asked if the Foreign Ministry will assist Narong by explaining his case to the United States in some way, Sakthip said this is a personal matter in which the Foreign Ministry cannot become involved. Once Narong becomes prime minister or cabinet member, however, the Foreign Ministry can then play a role. Sakthip said he personally sympathizes with Narong on being a target of current criticism.

Sakthip said the current issue arose merely from a question posed to the U.S. Government spokesperson; it was not a statement issued by the United States. This is because there must be evidence before an accusation can be leveled against anyone. There is no clear evidence at this time. The United States has the right to deny anyone entry into its territory. In any event, the United States has no intention to interfere in Thailand's internal affairs. It merely made a factual answer to a question.

Further on Foreign Ministry Role

BK3103011592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday urged Washington to clarify as soon as possible its allegation that Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan was suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, for the sake of justice and his image.

The message was conveyed through the US Embassy in Bangkok and the Thai Embassy in Washington to the US administration yesterday.

Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa said he had talked on the phone to Ralph Boyce, the US Embassy's councellor for political affairs, and the Thai Ambassador in Washington, M.L. Phiraphong Kasemsi, to pass the same message to the US State Department.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin yesterday defended the ministry's diplomatic intervention. Seeking justice for Narong, whose image already had been badly tarnished by the allegation, was a humanitarian act.

"The ministry has no mandate to intervene in this matter but we did it for humane reasons and for justice as well," Asa said.

The ministry initially reacted coldly to a call by the Samakkhi Tham Party for its diplomatic intervention, saying Washington's move was directed at Narong as a person and not the whole nation.

But Asa yesterday said the ministry's intervention was a follow-up to what the ministry believed was a "right move"—open letters sent by Narong to US President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker urging them to produce evidence to support the allegation.

"It is right for the accused to seek clarification of the allegation against him, and the US should respond if they have evidence to back up such allegations," Asa said.

Narong has been nominated as prime minister by a five-party coalition led by Samakkhi Tham.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said it would be unfair to Narong and his family if the US accusation proved to be unfounded. He said the ministry was prepared to act as a messenger, if requested by the US, to convey an open letter responding to the Samakkhi Tham Party's call for evidence.

Asa, however, said the ministry could not do more than what it was doing if the US refused to back its claims against Narong.

Sakthip said Narong had not been convicted of drug trafficking by Washington, nor was Washington opposing his bid to become prime minister.

The spokesman said the refusal of a visa application was within the legitimate rights of one country if it had suspicions about the applicant.

The ministry did not believe the State Department deliberately passed such information to the media but had been pushed by a question from reporters in Washington. The same question had been asked here by a foreign correspondent.

Informed sources yesterday described the ministry's move as "helping to defuse a political timebomb".

They said it would be better if the US reacted to the call to clarify its allegation before Narong was officially appointed premier.

Interior Ministry Official on U.S. Embassy Rally

BK3003132292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Statement by Anan Anantakun, Interior Ministry permanent secretary, on rally at U.S. Embassy; given on 30 March—recorded]

[Text] I monitored the rally plan. I learned that the participants staged the rally peacefully and that they perhaps wanted to have an answer on an issue about which they wanted more information. The Interior Ministry tried to monitor the rally largely to provide convenience to the rally participants because it felt they were exercising their personal rights in a way that does not create trouble for others.

Dailies Comment on Narong's Situation

BK2803160792

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-Language newspapers—NAEO NA, BAN MUANG, and MATICHON on 28 March carry editorials and reports on the issue involving the image of prime minister-designate Narong Wongwan.

NAEO NA's 650-word editorial on page 4, entitled "The Country's Prestige," says "According to the constitution and the democratic system, Narong Wongwan has the right to become the prime minister because he is the leader of the party that won the most seats in the general election. It also has the support of several parties." The constitution does not stipulate that a person who has been denied entry by the United States cannot be the prime minister. He will be the first Thai prime minister who cannot visit the United States if he becomes the prime minister. The question is what will happen and how it will affect the Thai people and the country if the United States does not recognize Narong's government. Some people say that if the United States does not recognize the government, it can suspend aid to Thailand and enact laws to restrict our exports there. Moreover, other U.S. allies may also follow the U.S. measures. So, we may be isolated.

"We want the politicians from the four or five parties which will form the government to think about the prestige and dignity of the country. How can we be proud if we have a prime minister who has been denied entry by a foreign country and implicated in negative dealings, although he may be innocent? Why don't we look for others with good records and qualifications from these five parties to take up the prime minister's post? There are also other suitable people in the other parties. Why do we have to stick to a person who may cause problems if he becomes the prime minister? Or, is it that the personal gains of some people will be affected if someone else becomes prime minister. It will be pitiful for Thailand if that is the case," NAEO NA says.

BAN MUANG's 700-word editorial on page 5, entitled: "The Enemy of Democracy," says that after the nomination of Narong Wongwan as the prime minister, there were reports about his credibility in foreign countries, especially the U.S. allegation of his involvement in narcotics. "The accusation of his involvement in narcotics was raised in parliament during a debate to grill the Chatchai government when Narong Wongwan was in the opposition."

The editorial says that it is sure the revival of the groundless drug issue is aimed at destroying the opposition. These tactics are always used in politics, especially in Thailand because politicians always think only of their personal gain rather than the country's image in the eyes of the world. This is shameful. Our politicians have never developed themselves and have never thought of the country's reputation.

"How can we hope to have political stability and democratic development in the future when the political situation has started off with insincerity? How will the people with knowledge and judgement feel toward the politicians who have only done destructive rather than constructive things," BAN MAUNG asks.

MATICHON, in its news report, says Panatda Loetlamamphai, a KYODO correspodent in Bangkok, told MATICHON on 27 March that foreign journalists in Thailand do not want to report any more on the issue of Narong's alleged involvement in drug trafficking. This is because they do not want to be accused, despite the fact that their questions and follow-up on this issue have been done with good intentions in line with their professional etiquette. "Why don't they try to understand that this is a national issue and not a personal affair? The journalists do not have any personal affairs with Narong or the Samakkhi Tham Party. The journalists also have nothing to gain from the parties on the other side. Why do they have to threaten and accuse the journalists? They even blamed the journalists for applying a Singapore Government plan to destroy Thailand's image just because the correspondent who raised this issue is a Singaporean. The issue about Narong has been reported a long time ago. It is normal for him to clarify this issue to foreign countries just as he is about to take up an important post. We only hope to get a good answer which will help remedy the situation. But, the results have turned to be opposite," MATICHON quotes the correspondent as saying.

Papers React to U.S. Accusation Against Narong

BK3003112692

[Editorial Report] Three Thai papers—THAI RAT, BAN MUANG, and MATICHON—carry editorials in their 30 March issues on the U.S. State Department spokeswoman's statement on Prime Minister-designate Narong Wongwan being denied an entry visa because of his suspected narcotics-related activities.

The 450-word THAI RAT editorial, on page 3, "Thailand's Reputation Totally Destroyed," says the following, in its entirety:

"The wish of the U.S. Government under President George Bush, if fulfilled, will certainly deprive Narong Wongwan of the prime minister post. His political future will be effectively ended and he will have to live with the stigma for the rest of his life. All of this is merely to meet the U.S. goal. This is to be regarded as a most blatant interference in Thailand's internal affairs, which irresponsibly destroys Thailand's and the Thai people's reputation.

"This is not the first time that the United States has made allegations against major Thai political figures on narcotics-related activities. Field Marshal Praphat Charusathian, who was deputy prime minister and interior minister in the Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon-led goverment which ruled the country during the Vietnam war era, was also accused of international narcotics-related activities. Praphat also faced the same situation—the United States refused to make full disclosure when asked to do so.

"No Thai citizen wants a prime minister who is involved in international narcotics activities. Now that the United States has clearly interfered in Thailand's internal affairs by its disclosure to the world, it should detail all his activities that caused it to cancel Narong's entry visa. Such disclosure will benefit the Thai people. Although the U.S. statement appeared to be carefully made to avoid offending Thai people, it is unfair to make a vague allegation. The United States ought to know that by not making full disclosure, it keeps the Thai people from being informed and thus encourages negative anti-U.S. reaction from them.

"If President Bush were an ordinary Thai citizen, how would he feel toward the United States after Deputy Prime Minister Police General Phao Sarasin, whose cooperation with the United States against narcotics dating back some 40 years, gave assurances that Narong has no narcotics record. Secretary General of the Antinarcotics Board Police Gen. Chaowalit Yotmani, in whom the United States has great confidence, also confirmed on several occasions that Narong has no such record.

"Is it possible that the United States gathered its information against Narong from the 9 January 1991 no-confidence debate in parliament brought on by Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung? That information became the cause for canceling Narong's visa. International exchange of narcotics-related information caused Narong's name to appear in computerized lists compiled by other countries. This is tantamount to character assassination, because no existing world judicial system can clear Narong of the accusation.

"We are fully confident that the present U.S. Government has good wishes toward the Thai people and Thailand, but we would also be pleased if it would make a full disclosure concerning Narong. If not, international politics will be damaged and the world will view the United States in an awkward manner."

The 400-word BAN MUANG editorial on page 5, "Waiting To View the Great Ally's Mind", says: "The appointment of prime minister and formation of the Thai Government may have to take several days longer after the convening of the first parliamentary session on 3 April because of the impact of the U.S. statement on its rejection of an entry visa for Narong Wongwan, the prime minister-designate, on grounds of his narcotics-related activities.

"The U.S. accusation was vague and unsubstantiated, causing great damage to Narong, Thailand, and the Thai people. Narong has already rejected the slanderous accusation and challenged the U.S. Government to forward evidence to the Thai Government and agencies responsible for legal action against him.

"By issuing a challenge to the U.S. Government, Narong has done the right thing to protect his own rights against slander. The U.S. Government appears to have been exploiting the term human rights in the cause of its political interests throughout the world. We hope that the United States will be able to forward the evidence substantiating its accusation to the Thai Government so that the Thai people will know what the facts are. Failing this, we will consider the accusation against Narong to be a lie and no longer reliable.

"We would thank the U.S. Government in advance for forwarding clear evidence in its serious accusation against Narong, because it would benefit the Thai people and the future national administration in Thailand. However, if the United States tries to evade the issue due to the lack of clear evidence to legally prosecute Narong, the people can only express their own regret for having placed their confidence and trust in an ally," the BAN MUANG editorial concludes.

The 500-word MATICHON editorial, on page 8, entitled: "A Spirit Is Necessary," says: "Narong Wongwan has done the right thing to retaliate against the U.S. disclosure about his being denied an entry visa on grounds of narcotics-related activities by issuing a challenge to the United States to the effect that he is ready to prove his innocence anywhere and at anytime. Therefore, if the United States has honest motives, it should disclose information about Narong's activities to the Thai parliament or to the Thai people in one way or another. The Thai people have the right to know in this issue.

"In any event, in addition to declaring his readiness to prove his innocence, Narong would demonstrate his democratic spirit and mind if he withdraws himself as candidate for the premier post. In this way, he would contribute to the strengthening of democratic spirit and the creation of good political manners in Thailand. A particular quality that the Thai people want their members of parliament to have is proper political manners."

Samakkhi Tham Rejects NAP Bid To Form Cabinet

BK2803020792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] has rejected a request by the New Aspiration Party [NAP] to lead the attempt to form the next government because of the image crisis of STP leader Narong Wongwan.

The STP refused the request on Thursday night when NAP Secretary-General Phisan Munlasatsathon telephoned STP Secretary-General Thiti Nakhonthap to ask for support.

STP sources quoted Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti as telling Mr Phisan that the NAP must respect democratic rules, under which the party with the most MPs is given the priority.

"How can we support Gen Chawalit (Yongchaiyut) for the premiership when the NAP came in third (in last Sunday's general election)?" Sqn Ldr Thiti was quoted as saying.

Mr Phisan was told the STP would support Gen Chawalit if the NAP had the most seats in Parliament, the sources said.

The STP came first in the election with 79 MPs, followed by Chat Thai with 74 and NAP with 72.

The source claimed Mr Phisan had asked Sqn Ldr Thiti, who is retired, whether the STP still supports Mr Narong following unsubstantiated allegations that he may have had links to the narcotics trade.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said the allegation was groundless and appeared to be aimed at discrediting Mr Narong.

The NAP secretary-general also asked whether the STP could support NAP leader Gen Chawalit for prime minister.

"That is unlikely. If we could not form our own government with our party's leader as premier, then Chat Thai's leader would get the chance, and I can assure you that Chat Thai could form it," Sqn Ldr Thiti was quoted as saying.

Sqn Ldr thiti told Mr Phisan that it was unlikely that the NAP would be able to form a government with Gen Chawalit as prime minister, because the alliance of Chat Thai, Prachakon Thai, Social Action and STP cannot be broken

Chat Thai, SAP Reaffirm Backing for Narong

BK3103014292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Chat Thai and Social Action parties yesterday reconfirmed their support for the Samakkhi Tham Party's attempt to form a coalition government with Mr Narong Wongwan as prime minister nominee.

The two parties have lately been lobbied to switch to the New Aspiration Party-led bloc which has intensified its efforts to form an alternative government following the controversy surrounding Mr Narong being denied a visa for the United States.

After holding separate party meetings yesterday, both parties emerged to underscore their firm positions.

The Chat Thai Party not only resolved to throw its support behind Mr Narong but also announced it would back a Samakkhi Tham MP as House Speaker.

"Chat Thai will never go back on its agreement with other parties in forming a coalition government" Chat Thai deputy leaders Sanoh Thienthong told reporters after the party executive committee meeting.

Party Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-acha also denied reports that he was behind moves to switch Chat Thai over to the New Aspiration bloc.

Party spokesman Pratueng Wichanpricha said that Chat Thai did not think the implicated links to drug trafficking against Mr Narong were an obstacle.

"It's something that the Samakkhi Tham leader can clear up," Mr Pratueng said.

All Chat Thai MPs are to be present at Parliament on Friday to vote for a Samakkhi Tham MP to take the House Speaker post.

Samakkhi Tham is expected to nominate its deputy leader Dr Athit Urairat as House Speaker.

SAP leader Montri Phongphanit also announced after a party meeting that it will not break the agreement it has made with Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon in a bid to form a coalition government.

"SAP will never change the agreement it has made. We will not switch camps," Mr Montri told reporters.

He denied reports that his MPs are being bought out and said he did not recognise the other camp's attempt to pull SAP to it by lobbying former SAP leader M.R. Kukhrit Pramot.

Mr Montri said that if any party in his camp defected to the other, the people and the press should punish it, adding: "But I think it is impossible."

Mr Montri said that SAP still supports Mr Narong for the premiership because it holds that Mr Narong has not been tainted by the drug trafficking speculation.

"The State Department spokeswoman's statement is rather strange. And in any case Mr Narong will be wrong only if there is evidence to prove the charge," Mr Montri said.

Asked if Mr Narong's rise to premiership would cause Thailand problems, Mr Montri said this was something that has not yet occurred and he could not answer the question.

He said cabinet members will be all installed within 10 days after the House Speaker is appointed.

Developments in Narong Case Reported

BK3103005992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Mar 92 p A1, A2

[Text] Animosity between Prime Ministerial nominee Narong Wongwan and the United States deepened yesterday when the Samakkhi Tham Party leader accused the US Embassy of deliberately leaking information by alleging he had been closely watched by the US Drug Enforcement Agency for 14 years.

Narong made the accusation in a strongly-worded statement as thousands of his supporters staged a noisy protest outside the US Embassy yesterday, demanding the US reveal "substantiated evidence" of its drug trafficking allegation against him.

Narong also reaffirmed his determination to become prime minister.

"I will fight towards the end, even if my neck would be broken in the capacity as prime minister," he told the supporters, who later showed up at his party office to demonstrate their support.

Meanwhile, his four political allies—the Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties—yesterday reaffirmed their support for his nomination to the top executive post.

In his statement, Narong challenged the US to disclose all evidence of his alleged connections with international drug trafficking by April 2 when the newly elected House opens.

"If, at such time, no substantive evidence is forthcoming from the US, it is indicative that the United States does not have such evidence and I shall consider the case closed. No groundless allegations deserve anyone's attention or time," he said.

Reacting angrily to a report in the mass-circulation newspaper THAI RAT yesterday that he had been closely watched by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for 14 years, Narong said the US was "once again" making unsubstantiated accusations.

"I now begin to wonder if this reflects the manner in which the United States will carry out its relations with Thailand in the future," he said.

He said he suspected the "intentional leakage" of the report was the work of US Embassy officials.

"The only sense I can make of this leak is either the US wants to further discredit my reputation or it was trying to cover up its mistake," he said in the statement.

Addressing the supporters who had demonstrated at the embassy, Narong said earlier in the day their support boosted his morale and would encourage him to fight towards the end.

"I will fight on even if my neck is broken when I am at the helm as prime minister," Narong was quoted as telling the villagers.

The villagers reportedly were taken by nearly 50 buses from Phrae, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Phayao provinces to Bangkok and after the protest went to the tourist town of Phatthaya.

Narong was elected in Phrae where his family had earned fortunes from logging. He expanded the business and his influence there and in neighbouring northern provinces by establishing a network of tobacco factories which provide loans to locals.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the three-hour meeting, party spokesman Suchat Tancharoen said Samakkhi Tham's four allies—Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—had reaffirmed their support for Narong's nomination to the top executive post.

The party MPs also agreed unanimously to support deputy leader Dr Athit Urairat as House speaker, who will be elected on Friday. Samakkhi Tham had earlier agreed with its prospective coalition partners that the Chat Thai and SAP parties would each be given the post of a deputy House speaker.

Chat Thai MPs, in their meeting yesterday, reaffirmed their support for Narong's nomination and approved a proposal that the party would name Suphan Buri MP Chumphon Sinlapa-acha as a candidate for deputy House speaker.

At a news conference after an SAP meeting, party leader Montri Phongphanit confirmed the party's continued support for Narong's nomination. He said the party would field Lop Buri MP Chaowat Sudsabha as a candidate for the second deputy House speaker.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet and Ratsadon secretary general Chaiphak Siriwat yesterday also reaffirmed support for Narong's nomination as premier.

The five party-coalition commands a total of 195 MPs, providing a slim majority in the 360-member House of Representatives.

At the US Embassy, the protesters demanded Washington prove its drug allegations against Narong or clear his name. Washington disclosed last week that Narong had been denied a US visa because of suspicions he was linked to international drug trafficking.

The allegations threaten to derail Narong's nomination for the top political post.

The demonstrators demanded Washington produce any evidence against Narong by Thursday.

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler said last week that Narong "was denied a visa in July 1991 under... the Immigration and Nationality Act, which states any alien who the consular or immigration officer knows or has reason to believe is or has been an illicit trafficker in any controlled substance...is excludable." She did not provide further details.

The protesters, who held up traffic in central Bangkok, said they would organise another protest this week if Washington failed to clarify its statement.

Samakkhi Tham Party sources claimed the US Embassy informed the party yesterday morning that a reply to Narong's letter asking for clarification of Tutweiler's statement would arrive on Thursday.

Yesterday, a Thai language newspaper reported Samakkhi Tham was lobbying for a US reply that Narong could visit the United States and that there was no evidence incriminating Narong. Narong reacted angrily to Tutwiler's comments, accusing Washington of political interference in the selection of Thailand's prime minister and insisted they provided evidence on the charge.

The developments have cast Thai-US relations in doubt if Narong does become premier.

Meanwhile, Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, leader of the 41-MP Phalang Tham Party, urged Narong to back off on his nomination bid.

He said his party members met yesterday and agreed Narong could not clear himself of the charge in a matter of days.

The next government should be set up as soon as possible and Narong's reluctance to withdraw from the race would only delay the establishment of the new administration, Chamlong said.

Vietnam

Report on Vietnamese Soldiers in Cambodia Denied

BK2703145592 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—A leader of the Khmer Rouge faction has told a correspondent of the newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN that at present there are still 30,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia, and that Khmer

Rouge troops did not violate the Paris agreement on Cambodia when they fought Vietnamese Army units.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to reject these ill-intentioned fabrications, and reaffirms that all Vietnamese Army volunteers had withdrawn from Cambodia by September 1989. The slanders spread by the Khmer Rouge about the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia aimed to cover up their violation of the Paris Agreement on Cambodia.

Hanoi Reports U.S. Sponsor for Medical Course

BK2603154092 Hanoi VNA in English 1355 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—The Comperative Securities International of the United States has sponsored a two-week course on medical treatment for the Mekong River Delta.

The course, held at the polyclinic of Hau Giang Province, was attended by 52 medical workers from provincial hospitals in the area. The participants were given 18 basic lessons on medical treatment.

Premier Receives South Korean Businessman

BK3103032492 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet this afternoon received Mr. Mansuchoo, vice executive director of the Posco Steel Company of South Korea.

The South Korean company vice executive director is in Vietnam to attend the inauguration of the zinc-coated iron sheet factory, a joint venture between Posco and the iron sheet factory of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City.

The factory has an initial capacity of 10,000 tonnes/year.

Mr. Mansuchoo expressed his desire to share experiences with his Vietnamese colleagues, cooperate with Vietnam in building small- sized steel factories and help Vietnam in personnel training.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed Mr. Mansuchoo's presence in Vietnam and the inauguration of Posvina factory as a new step in the development of the cooperative relations between Vietnam and South Korea. He expressed his wish that these relations would develop rapidly to make a substantial contribution to national economic development of both countries. Premier Kiet also expressed his wish that the cooperation of Vietnam with North Korea as well as South Korea would strengthen for the sake of peace, friendship, cooperation and development in the region.

Do Muoi Greets Japan Communist Party Leader

BK2903151192 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, has sent his warmest congratulations to Sando Nosaka, honourary chairman of the Japanese Communist Party [JPC] central committee, on his birth centenary.

The message said:

"As an indomitable revolutionary fighter, you have devoted your whole life to the glorious history of the JPC and for the interests of the Japanese working people. You have tirelessly struggled for the international communist and workers' movement, thus making an active contribution to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"A great and close friend of the Vietnamese people, you have together with comrade Sen Katayama and President Ho Chi Minh, laid a foundation for the development of the traditional friendship and solidarity between the two parties and peoples of Vietnam and Japan."

General Secretary Do Muoi expressed profound gratitude to Chairman Sando Nosaka for his support and fine sentiment toward the Vietnamese.

National Assembly 26 Mar Afternoon Session

BK2803151592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Report on the afternoon meeting of 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly in Hanoi on 26 March—italicized portions recorded]

[Text] On the afternoon of 26 March, the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly held a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. They discussed the preamble of the fourth draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

Everyone agreed that there should be a preamble and stressed that it must exhibit the national characteristics and tradition and be seen as a declaration of a regime. Most of the statements made concurred with the draft constitution. However, some suggested that the structure of the national institutions must be considered carefully so that it will correspond to national history, confirm the thousand years of tradition of patriotism, the unbending willpower, and the heroic sacrifice of the Vietnamese people.

At the afternoon meeting, the delegates contributed their opinions to the revised draft of Chapter 1 entitled: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam—the Political System. Many statements focussed on Article 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 on the role of mass organizations and the party's leadership role over the state and society.

We would like to excerpt some National Assembly deputies' statements on the above issues:

[Binh Thuan Province Deputy Truong Nghiep Vu] *I would like to give my opinion on a paragraph in Article 2 of Chapter 1 that says all state power belongs to the people based on the foundation of peasant-worker-intellectual alliance. The peasant-worker-intellectual alliance is a big issue and putting it in one sentence may cause an misunderstanding. Therefore, to make it more reasonable, I suggest the part about the alliance be put in Article 10 after the article on the Vietnam Fatherland Front.*

Article 3 says the government warrants and constantly promotes the people's right to comprehensive mastery. I think this sentence does not clearly show its legalistic nature though it has a tendency to motivate. I suggest that this be changed to: The government perfects the legal base in order to warrant and promote the people's right to comprehensive mastery.

I suggest the words socialist orientations be excluded in Article 15 on the economic system. It should be put in Article 3 after the sentence: makes the country prosperous and strong. I see it is necessary to state that the Vietnam Fatherland Front is a big social-political organization. We should clearly state that its role is to generally represent the people's rights to mastery.

[Tien Giang Province Deputy Nguyen Van Phuc] *I would like to touch on Article 4 which confirms the party's leadership role. The article relates to the constitution preamble. It says the constitution institutionalizes the relations between the party leadership, the government, and the people's mastery. When we read the constitution, we find that the communist party is only mentioned in this article. But we clearly institutionalize the government, National Assembly, and even the people's rights to mastery in the constitution. If it is possible, I suggest that we set aside one chapter for the institutionalization of the party leadership in taking our country to socialism. We should mention how the party leads us and the relationship between the party and the government and other organizations.*

Article 4 be rewritten to say that the Communist Party of Vietnam is the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class truly reflecting the interest of the Vietnamese working class, laboring people, and the entire country, and creatively applying Marxist-Leninism. We should not use the word follow because that does not reflect the real nature of our party that has creatively applied Marxist-Leninism to Vietnamese conditions, providing us with victories, and which has been loyal to President Ho Chi Minh's thoughts. As many people say, the President Ho Chi Minh's thoughts already includes the creative application of Marxist-Leninism to Vietnamese conditions.

[Nghe An Province Deputy Pham Nhu Cuong] *My opinions are the same as Comrade Phuc's but I would like to make a further clarification. In the preamble, we say that we will institutionalize the relations between the party, state, and people. If we do not further clarify the institutionalization, the relationship will not be clear. Therefore, I suggest that apart from Article 4 that deals with the party's leadership role which we should add to in detail, we should have a separate chapter on the party, as Comrade Phuc has suggested.*

Also in the 26 March meeting, the deputies from Quang Nam-Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City, Hau Giang, and other cities and provinces contributed their views to some articles of Chapter One. On 27 March, the National Assembly will continue to discuss the draft amendments to the constitution at the Ba Dinh Hall Conference.

Communique No. 3

BK2603151092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Communique No. 3 issued by the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly]

[Text] The National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall on the afternoon of 26 March 1992. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

At this session, the National Assembly discussed the preamble and Chapter 1 of the fourth draft amendments to the Constitution. Many deputies contributed ideas on the necessity of having a preamble and its contents, the parts dealing with our political system, the people's right to mastery, and the role of the Communist party of Vietnam in leading the state and society.

The National Assembly will continue its work at the conference hall on 27 March.

National Assembly 27 March Session

BK2903142792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station correspondent Dinh Khai's report on 27 March activities of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—italicized portions recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, today, the fourth day of the 11th session of the Eighth National Assembly, the deputies attended a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to discuss the draft amendments to the Constitution. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

At yesterday's meeting, 14 delegates contributed ideas to Chapter 1 of the draft amendments compared to 15 at this morning's session. Deputies focused their discussion on all the articles of Chapter 1. Many suggested the chapter's title be shortened to: Chapter 1—The political system, and the words: the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, be left out. All 14 articles of Chapter 1 were debated. However, the discussion concentrated on Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 14. Regarding Article 4, all deputies asserted the sole leadership of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam], saying that only the party can lead the nation to socialism and give the entire people a bountiful life. As a result, the constitution must reflect this fact, while stressing the efforts to oppose trends toward political pluralism and the multiparty system. Some deputies, however, said the party leadership role should not be mentioned in this chapter because we already have the party statutes, while many others felt otherwise. Regarding this issue, comrade Nguyen Dinh Ngo, deputy from Thua Thien-Hue Province said:

I would like to contribute my ideas to Article 4. I notice some of you are concerned about the length of this article. To me, it is not the length but the completeness of the article that counts. Talking about completeness, I think that we should come back to the definition of the word constitution. This word is derived from Latin, which means confirmation or establishment. Therefore, we should confirm or establish the party leadership role in Article 4 by stipulating its role and method of leadership. This should be institutionalized. Therefore, I think that Article 4 should have four points:

First, we must assert that the CPV, which has creatively applied Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, is the sole force that leads the state and society. We must stress the word sole, because we have seen the failure in the application of the multiparty system in many countries.

Second, I think we have to go back to the 1980 Constitution which stipulated that: The party exists and struggles for the interest of the working class and the Vietnamese people. I think the word struggle is suitable and we should not eliminate it from the draft amendments. Under the condition in which the party assumes power, I think all party members must struggle for the interest of the working class and the Vietnamese people. I think if we do not struggle we cannot fulfill the interest and aspiration of the people. It should be pointed out that individualism did exist in some sectors, and while the people faced hardship some individuals enjoyed a better life. Therefore, party members must struggle to overcome this negative phenomena.

Third, all party organizations must carry out activities within the framework of the constitution and the law. This phrase has already been stipulated in the draft amendments.

Fourth, the method of party leadership: I remember this was stipulated in previous drafts. Therefore, I suggest we maintain this in the fourth draft. Again, I stress that we should make Article 4 complete with the inclusion of all these points.

Regarding Article 5, deputies have contributed different ideas to the phrase: The SRV state is a unified state of the people of all nationalities. Some asked whether we should maintain this phrase or to add the phrase: who live on the Vietnamese territory. Many have suggested that we should add to this article the issue of spoken and written languages. Many deputies questioned about using the proper term to describe ethnic minorities. Regarding this issue, Comrade Nguyen Van Sy, deputy from Gia Rai Province, said:

I think minorities or ethnic minorities are the same. The main purpose is to distinguish the minority from the majority. Therefore, I suggest, for the sake of clarity, that we use the words ethnic minorities in this regard.

Article 7 of the draft amendments stipulated two ways of impeaching National Assembly deputies who no longer deserve the people's confidence. Many delegates have expressed their concern over this issue and said only eligible voters can impeach deputies and that the National Assembly should not entrusted with that right. However, some have suggested that due to the unique condition of our country and in order to save the state budget in organizing the impeachment by voters, we should maintain the method used by the National Assembly to impeach deputies. Others have suggested that we should add one more option, that is to allow National Assembly deputies to resign themselves when they feel they are no longer qualified to be deputies.

Many delegates also contributed their opinions on the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front stipulated in Article 9 of the draft constitution. They held that it is necessary to write down what organizations are included in the Vietnam Fatherland Front. Some said there is no need to say the Vietnamese Fatherland Front serves as the firm fulcrum for the government because it is obvious. Our government is a government of the entire people and the front consists of people from all walks of life. Therefore, the government must work for the interest of the public.

About Article 10 on the Vietnam Confederation of Workers, the statements agreed to recognize its role in the constitution because the confederation is a mass organization of the Vietnamese worker class. Some have also suggested to include in the constitution other organizations such as the Vietnamese Peasants Association. However, others have stated that there is no need to mention any more organizations besides the one in the draft. Some delegates said the constitution is the common law of a nation, therefore the workers' organization should not be mentioned separately in an article as in the draft constitution.

Regarding Article 11, some delegates suggested that it should be rewritten more compactly and that words without precise meaning be avoided. Some even suggested that Article 11 and 8 be put together in a more compact form.

About Article 14, the last article of Chapter 1, many agreed with Comrade Phan Quang, deputy from Thai Binh Province when he said:

I agree with the basic concept in this article because it reflects the common spirit that Vietnam wants to be a friend of all nations of the world. However, this article is presented in three sentences connected by two semicolons. In the first sentence, it mentions the nature of our relations with other countries of the world by saying that the SRV pursues a policy of peace, friendship, and expands international relations and cooperation with all *countries in the world regardless of their different political and social systems, and so forth. This is a very complete description. In the second sentence, it mentions ties with socialist nations and neighboring countries. In the third sentence, it clarifies our relations with the world people's common movements to struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. I think this statement is complete but the idea in second sentence i.e. strengthens the solidarity, friendship, and traditional cooperation relations with socialist nations and neighboring countries is already included in the first sentence. Therefore, I suggest the National Assembly use only the first sentence which is the most general, about relations with all countries; and the third sentence about the active support and contributions to the world people's common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. The sentence strengthens the solidarity, friendship, and traditional cooperation relations with socialist nations and neighboring countries should not be mentioned because it is already included in the preceding sentence.*

Dear friends, also in this morning session, the deputies discussed Chapter 2 on the economic system of the draft constitution. Eleven delegates spoke at the meeting. The most discussed issue was how to stipulate possession, bequest, and the transfer of land in the constitution as noted in Article 17 and 18 of the draft. Regarding this issue, Deputy Truong Gia Duyen from Dong Nai Province said:

The definition in Article 17 that land is owned by the entire people is necessary. The sentence land is put under state management according to plans and laws to ensure that they are used according to set goals and to bring about results in Article 18 has magnificent meaning. It not only stipulates the state management of land but also defines that purpose of the land management and the responsibility of the land user.

Dear friends, this afternoon, the National Assembly held a plenary session in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. The delegates continued their discussion on Chapter Two on the economic system and Chapter Three on culture, education, science, and technology.

As regards to Chapter 2, 15 suggestions were made at the meeting. They focussed on Article 18 about the right of possession and use of land. The delegates also enthusiastically debated Article 19, 20, 21, and 22 about the activities of economic elements. They stressed the equal right of different economic elements, the duty of paying taxes to the state, and encouragement for the development of the collective economy, and so forth.

There were eight statements concerning issues in Chapter 3. They were about the name of the chapter and context of some articles such as Article 30 about the building of a modern and human national culture by the state; Article 31, 32, and 33 about the development of people's knowledge, culture and arts; and the information and press work. We will report on this meeting in the newscast at 0600 tomorrow.

The delegates will continue their session tomorrow, 28 March, at the conference hall on the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

Afternoon Session

BK2803130792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station correspondent Huy Toan's report on the National Assembly afternoon session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on 27 Mar—italicized portions recorded]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, 27 March, the National Assembly deputies discussed the revised draft constitution under the direction of Chairman Le Quang Dao at the conference hall.

After listening to a summary of the views on Chapter 2's economic system presented by the deputies at the morning meeting, two more hours were spent on its debate. This is chapter of the revised constitution have been exhaustively debated. First of all, on land management policy, the revised draft constitution says: The state allocates land to organizations and individuals for long-term use and organizations and individuals are responsible for its protection, enrichment, rational exploitation and prudent use, and may transfer its right to use the land as stipulated by law. This was heatedly discussed by the deputies.

Many deputies said land must be placed under state control as it is a national asset, so that there will be no mistake as to who is its owner. As a result, it is right to say that land is owned by the state and not advisable to say it is owned by the people. Others maintained that it is not accurate to say: Allocate land to individuals for long-term use. The constitution should specify the length of time for the use of the allocated land and the dates so that recipients will be at ease working on it. Other deputies stated that the constitution should not say organizations and individuals are authorized to transfer their right of use on allocated land as stipulated by the constitution. This is because many people would then think that land can be inherited and transferred, which means that it can be traded and sold. In fact, there have been cases of land sales under many illicit forms. Yet, some deputies have suggested that the state adopt a clear land management policy.

On this matter, Deputy Phan Quoc Huy of Vinh Phu said: *Regarding land ownership, we would like to unify the view that there should be both public and private. In such a case, ownership can be clearly determined and the use, protection and development of land can be really effective. The complex problem is that we have already divided land and ricefields and this may cause some confusion. When we implemented contract No. 10, the* *confusion had already occurred. Therefore we think that if people have the right to use land for a long time, they should also be authorized to inherit and transfer this right. We will study the law on land again and will supplement this law and the law on agricultural taxes. I think we should study the land policy comprehensively. Recent reports have indicated that our land reform should enrich people who have followed us for decades now so that they can continue to advance toward socialism.*

There are still several differing views on ownership. Deputy Dang Quoc Tuy of Bac Thai said: *We agree with some of the suggestions. As the state is of the people, by the people and for the people, state ownership is the people's ownership and therefore, the words state ownership must be included. This is collective ownership. I think if collectives want to engage in effective production and businesss, the private sector is ready to help them. It is understood that the state is also ready to give production means to collectives for production and business purposes. In this connection, I find this issue is still unclear. There must also be a clear distinction between state and private ownership.*

However, many deputies held that Article 18 in the revised draft constitution has been written accurately since the matter of land and ricefields is a major issue, and that no country in the world would dare to fail in managing its land. To avoid abuse and any misunderstanding of the phrase "may transfer the right to use the allocated land," three more words—"right to use"—[quyeenl xuwe dungv] should be added.

On the issue of economic sectors in society, many deputies held that we should not describe the state economy sector as leading. Rather, we should call it a base. As a result, the state economy sector should also be equal to other economic sectors. Some deputies have suggested the cancellation of the second sentence of Article 19 which says: State economic establishments have the right to autonomy in production and business. Meanwhile, individual and private capitalist installations are authorized to choose the organizational forms of production and business and the most profitable trades and jobs.

On this issue, Deputy Le Sinh Toan of Thanh Hoa Province said: *We found another issue in Article 21 that says individual and private economic sectors may choose in any scale the organizational forms of production in trades and jobs taht would benefit national welfare and the people's livelihood. In other words, those which do not have any benefit must be restricted. This is correct. In addition, those which are not beneficial but also harmful should be restricted and forbidden. Restrictions and prohibitions should be applied to all sectors and not only to individuals and the private sector. The stipulations in Articles 19, 20 and 21 are inconsistent even though Article 22 clearly states that all economic sectors are equal before the law. For consistency in action and equality in benefits and duties, I suggest that Article 22 be rewritten concisely as follows: All organizations and individuals of all economic sectors are equal before the law and may freely chose the forms and scale of production and business organization in trades and jobs prescribed by the law. They must abide by the law and fulfill their obligations to the state. Their interests, assets, and other properties will be protected by the state.*

Dear friends: When debating Chapter 2, many deputies wanted to make statements. However, with the time limit, some 15 deputies have made their statements in about an hour. At both the morning and afternoon meetings, some 26 views on this chapter were presented. If there had been more time, there would have been more views and problems arising from this chapter would have been debated at length.

During a break in the afternoon meeting, we interviewed Deputy Nguyen Binh Thong of Phu Yen Province:

Dear comrade, we know many deputies wanted to express their views on the economic system in Chapter 2 but due to time limit only a few can do so. Now, could you give us your views on Chapter 2, particularly the policy of land management?

[Deputy Nguyen Binh Thong] *As a deputy of the people, I fully agree with this chapter. As we all know, this is a resolution of the sixth and seventh party congresses asserted in the platform for national construction: Land is the property of all people and is placed under unified state control. As a result, land users only have the right to use but not to own land because the state is the sole owner. This is our Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Since there is no right to own land and ricefields, there is evidently neither any right to inherit nor transfer it to second or third users. However, at present and particularly recently, since land and ricefields were placed under no managerial control, peasants have sold and bought land and ricefields on their own, making it impossible for local authorities to recover them. We think that this problem is very complex. It has made land management in our locality very difficult. This is the cause of social injustice in the countryside. It is a major issue that must be clearly stated and be fundamentally resolved in the draft constitution, which aims for justice for all strata of people and peasants, cadres and employees and even our Armed Forces.*

After the break in the afternoon meeting, the deputies debated Chapter 3 of the revised draft constitution. Deputy Tran Do began with his thoughts about the chapter covering culture, education, science and technology. This is of much concern to our party and state. During the debate, Haiphong deputy Tran Mai Huong voiced his concern that many historical relics are being destroyed in many localities. As a result, this sentence should be added to Article 34 of this chapter: These relics should be restored, preserved and protected. However, some deputies said this sentence is not perfect as there is no subject: who is going to restore, preserve and promote these historical relics. Other deputies have also suggested we avoid this way of wording in the constitution as it could be misinterpreted by readers.

The first sentence in Article 35 or the revised Article 40 of the old constitution says: Education and training are our national policy. However, many deputies maintained that they are in fact not national policy nor primary issues. Yet, there are always problems in implementing educational and training tasks. Some deputies suggested that the constitution should not say "Primary education must be universalized and illiteracy must be overcome," as this issue is covered by the education and primary school sector. If illiteracy is wiped out in the future and the problem of primary schooling settled, should the constitution then be changed again?

Dear friends: There have been eight suggestions on culture, education, science and technology in only an hour. We think this chapter is of much interest to the deputies. The deputies will continue their work in the conference hall today.

Communique No. 4

BK2803032992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Communique No. 4 of Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 27 March 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary meeting in the conference hall under the direction of its chairman Le Quang Dao.

The deputies debated Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the fourth draft revised constitution. On the political system, 15 deputies continued to make statements on the SRV state as the state of the people, by the people, and for the people in which all power belongs to the people based on the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance; on the Vietnam Fatherland Front as the political base and the firm and strong fulcrum of the state that creates conditions for the front and its member organizations to operate effectively; and on the necessity of Article Ten that stipulates the organization of trade unions, socio-political organizations of the working class, and the laboring people.

Concerning the economic system, 26 deputies made statements focusing on the issues of multisectoral economic structures, systems of land ownership of the entire people under which the state allocates land to organizations and individuals for long time use, and organizations and individuals may transfer the allocated land using right as stipulated by law; and on the issues of right to autonomy in production and business operations, equality before law, duty to pay taxes of production and business installations in various economic sectors, the role of state economy, and the state management over enterprises in country and those having foreign investment.

Regarding culture, education, and technology, eight deputies made statements on the building of a national culture, Vietnamese education, technological development, conditions, and policies of the state to encourage and remunerate talented people in literature and arts as well as in scientific research.

On 28 March, the National Assembly deputies will continue to make statements in the conference hall on Chapter 3 and some other subsequent articles of the draft revised constitution.

National Assembly 28 Mar Session in Morning

BK3003141992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Station correspondent Kim Cuc's report on 28 March morning activities of the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—italicized portions recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, this morning [28 March], the National Assembly met in the conference hall to discuss Chapters 3 and 4 of the revised draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution. Chapter 3 is about culture, education, science, and technology and Chapter 4 deals with the defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

Regarding Chapter 3, the deputies contributed 20 opinions, analyzing the various provisions of this chapter and providing additional ideas and forms of presentation for better clarity and completeness. Most of the deputies focused their opinions on the need to build a national cultural policy based on the Vietnamese people's fine traditions of humanism. Some deputies recommended that the need to build new civilized families and develop a civilized and economical lifestyle be added to Article 31.

Regarding Chapter 3, Comrade Tran Hoan, deputy from Quang Binh Province, said: *I am somewhat divided as to what to say about the preciseness of the goals set by this chapter. In my opinion, these goals are not defined very clearly yet. As we may still recall, during his lifetime, when dealing with culture and the arts, Uncle Ho used to raise these questions: What are the goals of culture and arts? How should they be carried out? Who is responsible for carrying out cultural and artistic activities? The main point here is the need to clearly define the goals of culture and the arts as well as those of their beneficiaries. Otherwise, it would mean that the goals of our cultural and artistic activities are the same as those of other countries. This is a matter of principle because it involves the genuine, the good, and the beautiful.*

As far as I know, it has been defined quite clearly in the constitutional draft amendments that the objectives of education and training are to meet the requirements of national construction and defense and to train skillful laborers capable of displaying dynamism, creativity, national pride, and eagerness to surge forward to contribute to making the people wealthy and the nation powerful.

However, the goals of culture and the arts as a whole are not clearly defined in the constitutional draft amendments. Let me cite an example. It has been defined in the constitutional draft amendments that literature and the arts contribute to fostering the dignity and lofty sentiments of the Vietnamese people, and that encouragement *should be given to the development of various forms of cultural activities undertaken by state agencies, collectives, private parties, mass societies, and other organizations. This definition is not clear enough. I have some proposals to make, as follows:*

First, it has been said under Article 30 that the state builds a modern people's national culture. In my opinion, the article could provide a short yet more precise definition if we reword this article as follows: The state promotes a scientific, educational, and cultural development program aimed at bringing into play the human factor and at serving the people's interests so as to benefit the cause of national construction and defense.

Comrade Truong Dinh Long, deputy from Vinh Phu Province, made the following suggestions:

I would like to contribute some suggestions to culture. As we all know, a society is formed by individuals, families, and collectives. When we use the term cultural standards, we imply the cultural standards set for a certain individual, family, or society. As far as the compilation of the draft provisions on culture is concerned, I think that very little effort has been made here. Culturally speaking, by very little effort, I mean a single chapter could not help provide a perfect image of a typical Vietnamese family. That perfect image could be obtained, provided that we devote more than one chapter to defining the cultural fabric of a Vietnamese family.

Second, the cultural standards for a typical individual cannot be clearly manifested by a single chapter. Instead, they should be found in many chapters. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the chapter on culture be reworded to contain well-defined cultural standards for a typical Vietnamese citizen and a typical Vietnamese family. This is aimed at ensuring clarity. For example, for the sake of appropriateness, we could remove some provisions under Article 62 of Chapter 5 and include them in Chapter 3. Because we want to build a good society based on socialist principles, we must clearly define the cultural standards for individuals and families forming that society.

Regarding Article 32 on literature and the arts, some opinions held that the article is too generally defined. Some deputies said that culture in general, and literature and the arts in particular, are to develop personality and creative ability in human beings. Therefore, the state needs to encourage and give special priority treatment to people with high potential in literature and the arts, and that this should be mentioned clearly in the Constitution.

In Chapter 3, many delegates focused their discussion on education, health, society, and physical training and sports. They affirmed the importance of the present education work and urged the government to have proper investment in this undertaking. They said that Article 35 is not enough. The article says: education and training is a national policy. They said that the article should be enhanced to read: education and training is the first national policy, because only a good policy in education and training can create people with good quality and capacity to build socialism. So we have to stipulate that in the Constitution.

Comrade Huynh Van Hoang, deputy from Ho Chi Minh City said:

Regarding Article 35, I understand that when he was living, Uncle Ho was concerned very much about education. Once he stated that his utmost aspiration was to provide enough food, clothing, and education for everyone. That means that after food and clothing, education is the next most important thing. Therefore, I suggested that we change the first sentence of Article 35 to: education and training is the first national policy because that policy reflects the aspiration of Uncle Ho and our party in providing education for all people. In addition, concerning the purpose of education, I suggested that the sentence be rewritten as: The state develops education to enhance the people's intellectual standards, strengthen manpower, and foster men of talent—removing the words: the objective of education. We should continue with the sentence: Take care of the comprehensive development of young generations, meeting requirements of the national construction and defense.

The following is the opinion of Ms. Tran Thi Thu Lan from Dong Nai Province:

In Article 35 concerning the purpose and position of education, we should state: education is the first national policy. This is to confirm the position of education and the party's policy on education, in order to have proper investment to create people with good quality and morality to carry on revolutionary tasks from the preceding generations.

Some opinions on Chapter 3 suggested that the state sponsor scientific research projects and increase investment in health care and physical training. Other opinions suggested that other social welfare issues concerning the elderly, alienated, and orphaned and disabled children should also be mentioned. The other deputies recommended that tourism be placed in the chapter on economy because tourism is a trade and an important income resource. Other deputies said that tourism should be place in the chapter on culture because tourism is an activity relating to culture, history, and entertainment.

Dear friends, after a break, National Assembly deputies continued their discussion on Chapter 4, which deals with the defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. All deputies agreed to the name of this chapter because it has clearly denoted a certain meaning in defending of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. Many deputies contributed valuable ideas to this chapter. Among them, comrade Dang Xuan Thuy, deputy from Lao Cai Province said:

After discussing details of this chapter, I think that we should not come into the role of the Armed Forces at the beginning of the chapter as suggested by many deputies, because this may lead to a misunderstanding that only the

Armed Forces assume the duty of defending the fatherland. Moreover, it does not reflect the reality of several wars of resistance in the past, in which our party had mobilized a great segment of the people—with the Armed Forces as the main strength—to fight against and triumphantly foil the enemies. For this reason, I suggest that, at the beginning of this chapter, we should begin with a passage clearly describing the concept of all people defending the socialist fatherland and stressing the duty of the entire people and the state in defending the country. In this context, I suggest that we should revise Article 46 to clearly define the objective in the movement for defending the fatherland, specify who will be responsible for this movement, and explain how to implement it. We may begin this article with: Defending the fatherland is an important and forefront task of our entire people and state. Building socialism must be carried out in close association with defending the fatherland. Then we may add part of Article 46 which says: the state stimulates the people's patriotism and love for socialism and revolutionary heroism. We must add: love for socialism. Without this, it is not logical to call for the defense of the socialist fatherland.

Many deputies also contributed ideas to supplement the duty of the entire people and army in defending the fatherland, the sacred obligation of all Vietnamese citizens. Comrade Nguyen Quoc Thuoc, deputy from Nghe An Province, said:

First, I unanimously agree with other comrades on the name of Chapter 4: Defense of the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. I suggest that we also maintain the content of Article 13 which deals with the sacred socialist Vietnamese fatherland. It is sacred in all aspects economically, politically, and security. As a result, we need to enhance the sentence: the Vietnamese fatherland is sacred and inviolable. We should add: defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland is the sacred obligation of the state and all citizens.

Contributing ideas to the same chapter, comrade Phan Luong Su, deputy from Tien Giang Province said:

I also agree to the name of this chapter as well as its contents, which specify the common duty of the entire people and the Armed Forces in defending the fatherland, the concrete role of the Armed Forces, and the efforts to make the Armed Forces more strong. I also agree with Comrade Dang Xuan Thuy's ideas contributed to Article 43, and I would like to say in short that we should add the sentence: All citizens of the SRV must fulfill their obligations in defending the fatherland as stipulated by law.

Dear friends, this afternoon, the National Assembly continued its session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. Deputies continued their discussion on Chapter 4 of the revised constitution. Ten delegates contributed ideas to this chapter, while 13 others sent their written viewpoints to presidium of the National Assembly session.

Afterwards, the National Assembly discussed Chapter 5 of the draft amendments, which deals with the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens. Comrade Phung Van Tuu, deputy chairman of the National Assembly, directed this session. A total of 14 delegates contributed their ideas to this chapter.

Communique No. 5

BK2803153792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Communique No. 5 of Eighth National Assembly's 11th session]

[Text] On 28 March 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

The National Assembly discussed Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the fourth revised draft constitution. In Chapter 3, which deals with culture, education, science, and technology, there were 15 delegates airing their views on the heritage and development of fine tradition of national culture, building new civilized individuals and families, protection of historic and cultural relics and national tourist attractions, freedom of religion, and the elimination of superstition and backward customs. The delegates also contributed their opinions on the government's measures to improve education and public health care and to help the elderly, the alienated, the disabled, orphans and homeless children.

In Chapter 4 on the protection of the Vietnam socialist fatherland, 25 delegates gave statements on national defense construction; the protection of the homeland, revolutionary gains, and the regime; and the responsibilities of the government and the society in helping the armed forces complete its duties entrusted by the public. The delegates also discussed the combined duties of national defense and economic production, and on social welfare policies applied to people in the armed services.

In Chapter 5 about fundamental rights and obligations of citizens there were 16 delegates who spoke on human rights and their application to citizen rights; the rights to work, produce, and learn; the equal rights of both sexes; the rights of speech, religion, and demonstration under the law; and the citizen's obligation toward children's education.

On 30 March, the National Assembly deputies will continue with their meeting at the conference hall on the following chapters of the draft revised constitution.

Australia

DPRK Warned Against Developing Nuclear Arms

BK3103093292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Canberra, March 31 (AFP)—The Australian Government warned Tuesday it would oppose any moves by North Korea to develop a nuclear arsenal.

The warning follows recent estimates that North Korea could be capable of producing nuclear weapons within months which have prompted strong reactions from Australia, the United States, China, and Russia.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told parliament that North Korea would become the most serious security threat in the Southeast Asia-Pacific region if predictions surrounding the country's nuclear weapons capabilities proved correct.

He cited reports from American Central Intelligence Agency director Robert Gates that Pyongyang could be developing such weapons which were presented to the U.S. Senate in February.

Evans said if North Korea failed to comply with international requests for an inspection of nuclear facilities the world would be faced with "a very serious situation indeed" and further measures would have to be considered.

"For obvious reasons I do not want to canvass what those measures might be," Evans said. "That will be a matter for the international community as whole."

The warning, which follows talks by Australia and other countries concerned by the prospect of North Korea developing nuclear weapons, could place at risk Australia's improving relationship with the communist state.

"This is an issue which my department and the intelligence community of this country has been following extremely closely for some time," Evans said.

"We have been very deeply concerned by the evidence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in North Korea which could indeed be intended for a nuclear weapons program."

Keating: No Aid-Human Rights Link for Jakarta

BK3003114092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 30 Mar 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating has praised what he has called the credible response of the Indonesian Government to the Dili massacre. Mr. Keating told Parliament he will raise human rights issues when he visits Indonesia next month but there will be no linkage to Australia's aid programs. Graeme Dobell reports that the prime minister was responding in Parliament to questions from the opposition.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Mr. Keating's visit to Jakarta from 21 April will be his first overseas trip as prime minister and symbolizes the place Australia gives Indonesia in its relations with Southeast Asia. In fact, during his talks in Canberra with George Bush, during the U.S. President's visit in January, Mr. Keating suggested that in some ways the relationship with Jakarta set the start for relations with the rest of the ASEAN group. The prime minister speaks of Australia and Indonesia having major political, economic, and strategic interests in common. Those interests were put at risk for a time following the Dili massacre on 12 November when at least 50 East Timorese were killed. And opposition leader John Hewson was probing those areas with this question in Parliament.

[Hewson] I ask the prime minister, will he be informing President Suharto in his meeting next month that Australian aid is linked to Indonesia's observance of internationally recognized standards of human rights.

[Dobell] The prime minister replied that Australia's aid to Indonesia this year worth nearly $60 million was not made conditional on human rights issues. Mr. Keating said Australia had made clear its objection and abhorrence at the massacre by Indonesian troops but he praised the subsequent response from Jakarta.

[Keating] The seriousness with which it should have been taken by the Indonesian authorities, their response, their response to the president, their response in relation with military officers who were engaged in the execution of those orders, have been, as far as the government has been concerned, critical responses and I think they also have been shared by the world community.

Now, Mr Speaker, I am going to Indonesia in the form of a prime minister who is going there. I am going there as a visiter from a—[changes thought] as a prime minister of Australia, from a country in the neighborhood. I will be naturally raising issues of concern to us including human rights but I take the visit as an opportunity to build closer ties between Indonesia and Australia in both trade and commerce.

[Dobell] Dr Hewson returned to the matter later in question time and asked Mr. Keating if the government maintains the position that the issue of self determination for East Timor was effectively closed. It was the Fraser coalition government in 1979 that gave full legal recognition to Indonesia's incorporation of East Timor, a decision later endorsed by the Labor government. Mr. Keating said this meant both sides of Australian politics took the view that the issue of self determination was closed.

[Keating] What the Australian governments over those years have thought was a set of arrangements which brought harmony and a political settlement in a [word indistinct] war which operated effectively between the Government of Indonesia and the people of East Timor. I do not remember the opposition of the day, the then government of the day, which governed Australia then, it means the [word indistinct] periods are critical years from 1976 onwards. Advertising that policy, (?sir), you have no credibility in asking a question like that whatsoever. [end recording]

Parliament To Consider Sending Troops to Cambodia

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[Article by Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, March 31 (AFP)—Australia's commitment to sending 500 troops to Cambodia for peacekeeping duties will be the subject of parliamentary examination Wednesday because of opposition fears that it is too big a risk.

Prime Minister Paul Keating will make a statement on the situation amid contradictory reports here about whether renewed fighting is jeopardising the peace process Australia helped formulate.

The Phnom Penh Government announced this week that its forces had counterattacked Khmer Rouge troops controlling a strategic road to the northern city of Kompong Thom.

UN peace-keeping force commander, Australian General John Sanderson, described fighting as "fairly severe," but said Tuesday he hoped negotiations involving the warring factions could end hostilities quickly.

He told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) from Cambodia that a team of liaison officers including Khmer Rouge officers was negotiating "a separation of forces in the Kampong Thom area" and he expected a resolution "in a matter of days."

Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Robert Hill has accused Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans, a key architect of the peace process, of having "lost touch with reality on the escalating conflict."

In his statement, Keating is expected to answer opposition questions based on concern that the commitment of Australian troops to Cambodia may be an unjustified risk given the scale of renewed fighting.

During impassioned parliamentary debate on Monday, Evans said the success of the peace process was the last chance for Cambodia and "unless everyone gives it their best shot, then Cambodia is just going to distintegrate...."

Evans rejected opposition claims that ceasefire violations by the Khmer Rouge were jeopardising the peace process and said the opposition should stop their "political opportunism."

"Of course, there are risks associated with this process," he added.

"But the crucial thing is that we work together to minimise these risks, not talk a process down which is the only chance the Cambodian people have of a lasting peace."

Hill said in a statement that Evans' comments were "astounding for their naivete."

"He is ignoring clear evidence that the Khmer Rouge is stepping up its campaign of seriously undermining the peace process for its own political gain.

"Conflict involving heavy weapons has increased significantly since last month's UN Security Council decision to approve the deployment of a peace-keeping force to Cambodia."

He said the Khmer Rouge had cut important road links and blown up bridges between Phnom Penh and northern Cambodia.

"On the eve of the proposed deployment of Australian forces, Senator Evans should recognise the seriousness of the fighting in Cambodia and acknowledge that the Khmer Rouge has shown nothing but bad faith."

London-based journalist John Pilger, who has won an international Emmy award for a new documentary on Cambodia called The Betrayal, said one of the main problems facing Cambodia was that its peace settlement is being starved of resources.

Pilger told the ABC Tuesday that Cambodia was being denied United Nations funds totalling 40 million U.S. dollars to clear thousands of Khmer Rouge mines.

"The question I would raise is why has it not been released," he said. "Why is there still a punitive embargo still in place against Cambodia? Why isn't there money to clear the mines when the money is actually for that?"

He said this helped the Khmer Rouge by not aiding its opponents and Cambodia to "get back on its feet."

"I think one of the most under-reported stories in the world today is the fact that the war is really back on in Cambodia."